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Companies ready to join BT battle

Windfall tax faces legal challenge

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR, AND CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

TONY BLAIR and Gordon Brown faced their first big confrontation with industry last night after a threat from British Telecom and other privatised companies to derail the windfall tax.

Sir Iain Vallance, chairman of BT, which seems certain to fall within the scope of the tax, announced that he would challenge in the courts any move to snatch its profits. His stance was backed by another potential target, BAA, formerly the British Airports Authority.

At least five others suggested that they might also support the moves — which follows years of painstaking wooing of the City by Labour. They pledged to seek ways to fight the tax.

BG, the renamed and demerged British Gas, claimed that it should not be included in a windfall tax. Philip Hampton, its finance director, said it was "simply a matter of fact that there had been no windfall for investors". BG, which is taking legal advice, refused to provide funds to cover the tax in its first-quarter accounts, saying there was not enough information to establish what figure may eventually be required.

Nick Hood, chairman of Wessex Water, praised BT and said that Sir Iain had acted to protect shareholders. "Iain Vallance is doing what any chairman should," Mr Hood said he would resist the tax if it was legally possible.

A spokeswoman for the Energy Group, which recently split from the Hanson conglomerate, said: "If we find the tax is illegal and there is a loophole we will look seriously at taking it."

Anglian Water, which has also campaigned against the levy, said it was reviewing legal options and that a challenge would be mounted if the tax was found to be anti-competitive.



It's Gordon Brown — he says he's getting nuisance calls from our chairman

The Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer responded last night — pointing out that the tax, which will be used to set up a welfare-to-work programme for 250,000 young people off the jobless list, was a centrepiece of Labour's manifesto. Up to £5 billion will be raised from it and City studies have predicted that BT could face a bill of up to £1.4 billion.

Sources close to the Chancellor voiced astonishment that "some people do not seem to have understood the result of the election" and irritation that companies which had been invited to the Treasury to discuss the plans had decided to campaign against them through the media. "They should stop whingeing," one said.

Mr Blair said bluntly: "My Government was elected to carry out its clear programme and it will carry out that programme."

Labour spokesmen voiced confidence that it could see off any legal challenge. The windfall tax will be in the Budget

next month. It is also expected that at that time the companies to be affected and the sums they will have to pay will be listed.

Sir Iain opened up the prospect of legal action on the day that he announced a record £3.2 billion profit for his company. He surprised Labour and the City by going public in the run-up to, and during, the election BT and other companies avoided reacting in public to the tax, although some issued private threats of legal action.

Sir Iain said he did not know whether BT was going to be hit but insisted it was not a utility and that it would be "perverse to line us up for punishment". Then the BAA, which could face a bill of £350 million, supported its line and accused Labour of action "verging on irresponsibility" in allowing the company to be included in speculation about the tax.

The BAA said: "Like BT, we have been frustrated by the refusal to count us in or count us out."

The BT chairman appeared to be reacting to the remarks last weekend by Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster-General, that it was hard to see how BT could be left out of the tax's scope. Before the election there were signs that while Mr Blair favoured its inclusion, Mr Brown was cool on the idea.

The threat of court action has now made it virtually certain that BT will be targeted: sources said that Labour could not be seen to bow to a threat.

Independent experts said last night that a challenge was likely to fail, although the companies would stand a better chance in the European Court.

Legal challenge, page 27
BT profits, page 28



Mary Allen, Arts Council chief, in Cannes yesterday with the producer Duncan Kenworthy

Three film companies share £92m lottery cash

FROM DALYA ALBERGE IN CANNES

THREE film companies were awarded £92 million of lottery cash yesterday in an attempt to help British cinema to compete with Hollywood.

The winners, announced by the Arts Council at the Cannes Film Festival, beat off competition from 34 rival bidders to win cash that will be used to make 90 British films over the next six years.

However, the biggest boost for years to the struggling industry ran into immediate criticism when the Arts Council decided only to award only three of the four franchises originally on offer.

The chosen few were Pathé Pictures, including producers responsible for *Gandhi* and *The Killing Fields*, which received £33 million; The Film Consortium, whose producers have worked on *Land and Freedom* and the *Crying Game*, which was awarded £30.25 million; and DNA Film, a company formed by Duncan Kenworthy, the producer of Britain's most successful film, *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, which received £29 million.

The total investment involved is more than £460 million: lottery funding accounts for about a fifth of that figure.

The investment will enable the consortia to work on a variety of films, as they do in Hollywood, rather than just on one film at a time. Mr Kenworthy promised to produce "low-budget British films with energy, taste and style". He added: "I feel a bit like Tony Blair. I'm thinking, we've won and now the real work begins."

The announcement was made by Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary, at a press conference attended by a delegation from the Arts Council

that included Mary Allen, the Secretary-General. Lottery money was used to cover their travel and accommodation. Almost everyone in the British industry was involved in a bid. Elton John's Rocket Pictures and Merchant Ivory were among the companies that were unlucky.

The intended drama of the press conference was dampened slightly when everyone was faxed with the results 15 minutes beforehand. Film-makers proved to be bad losers: few of the most prominent figures showed up. Some expressed disappointment and anger, although most of those declined to be named because they hope to receive other lottery funds for individual films.

One film-maker said of the selection panel, chaired by Clare Mulholland, that the members were mainly from television: "Anybody who's any good would be associated with a franchise bid and therefore could not have been on the panel."

Sir Sydney Samuelson, of the British Film Commission, said: "I'm disappointed that there were only three awards. Does that mean that of all the other 34 applicants, there wasn't one that met the criteria? I find that difficult to believe knowing the calibre of many of the applicants."

Asked why a fourth franchise had been refused, Charles Denton, chairman of the Arts Council panel on film and a former head of BBC Drama, said that "only three consortia fully met the criteria"; he added that there were no plans for a fourth to be awarded. He refused to be more specific.

Cash for parks, page 11

Support grows for wider Tory vote on leadership

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PLANS to change the rules for the Tory leadership election to give party activists a say are winning growing support among Conservative MPs.

It emerged yesterday that three leading candidates to become the chairman of the backbench 1922 committee, which sets the terms of the contest, favour involving the grassroots if agreement can be reached with MPs. They may get up to 20 per cent of the vote in a new electoral college.

Alan Clark, the former minister, who re-entered the Commons as member for Kensington and Chelsea, has confirmed to friends that he will definitely be a candidate for the influential post.

Mr Clark, along with the majority of the 35-strong new intake of Tory MPs, is backing an urgent review in time for

the vote next month. "The carnage of May 1 makes it all the more urgent. This is the critical time. The 1922 sets the rules so it can change the rules," he said last night. "It has to happen."

Proposals for an electoral college have been drawn up by the National Union, the voluntary wing of the party. Robin Hodgson, the chairman, has maintained that such a rule change could be implemented swiftly, and would set the election date back by no more

than a couple of weeks.

There was speculation at Westminster last night that Mr Hodgson, who is a former Tory MP, might resign if changes are not made without delay. Such a loss would be a serious blow to the party high command. Each of the six leadership contenders has identified a revival of the grassroots as the key to the restoration of the party's fortunes.

Support for the rule change appeared to be gathering pace at Westminster last night. The former Cabinet minister John MacGregor, the favourite to win next Wednesday's 1922 ballot, is also in favour. He said: "There are huge practical difficulties. If agreement can be reached with the parliamentary party we should do it."

Continued on page 2, col 4

Inflation hits the 2.5% target

The former Conservative Government succeeded in hitting its 2.5 per cent inflation target last month, just days before losing the election. Excluding mortgage payments the underlying rate of inflation fell from an annual rate of 2.7 per cent. Page 27

Anti-fat pill

Overweight Americans were delighted yesterday after government scientific advisers recommended the approval of a revolutionary new anti-obesity pill. Page 19

Lloyd joins THE TIMES



John Lloyd, associate editor of the *New Statesman* and one of Britain's most distinguished commentators on Labour politics, starts a new weekly column in *The Times* today (page 22). Mr Lloyd, a former Moscow correspondent of the *Financial Times*, will analyse the progress of new Labour.

Blair to spell out plan for Ulster peace

TONY BLAIR is expected to fly into Northern Ireland today to set out his vision of the Province's future just two weeks after his election success (Nicholas Watt writes).

The visit underlines his determination to place the search for peace in Northern Ireland at the top of his agenda. He is expected to set out the Government's approach in a keynote speech.

Since becoming Prime Minister, he has met all the main party leaders in Northern Ireland. Mr Blair has emphasised he is determined to inject momentum into the faltering peace process.

Top civil servants ape baboons' stress management

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

WHITEHALL mandarins, as their underlings may have long believed, live like baboons. While it has always been accepted that the corridors of power are alive with monkey business, the common view of permanent secretaries has been of cool, calculating Sir Humphreys. A new study reveals they have a lot in common with our pink-bottomed cousins.

Baboons which are dominant in

their troupes in the African Serengeti and senior civil servants both show fewer signs of stress than their social and workplace inferiors, according to research published yesterday. The two groups make ideal subjects when it comes to investigating relative health records between achievers and less successful rivals, it was claimed. Both Civil Service mandarins and East African primates have plentiful access to food and resources. They enjoy spare time to mate and groom while

also facing the same daily grind of stress, conflict and confrontation, the research said. Writing in the *British Medical Journal*, Eric Brunner, of University College London, found studies showed that cholesterol and key protein levels — both vital stress indicators — were lower in high-ranking individuals than their less successful colleagues.

The lipid and lipoprotein pattern observed in male civil servants reproduces the pattern found in the social

hierarchy of male baboons," he said. The similarities made them ideal to compare relative chances of living and dying from illnesses such as cancer and heart disease.

Such psycho-social factors could one day provide the key to understanding the way health is affected by the mind and work, he said. Female Whitehall high-fliers might be relieved that they are excluded from the study. Equal opportunities have apparently yet to reach the baboon world.

Excellent, a Hen party.

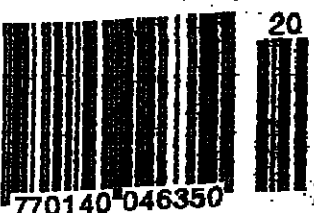


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Tories squeal now that front bench heel is on a Labour foot

Greater love hath no front bencher than that she lay down her moment of glory for a Tory leadership contender. If Peter Lilley wins next month, he will owe a debt of honour to Gillian Shephard. And, of course, to the mystery virus which so unexpectedly struck her down yesterday.

Mr Lilley was obliged to take her place on the front bench, as opening Opposition in the Debate on Education and Employment. Quite by coincidence, Mrs Shephard is on Mr Lilley's campaign

team. We wish her a speedy recovery — and a safe return to what insiders are dubbing the *Lilley & Gilley Show*.

Lilley made an assured start. His jokes are dreadful, his delivery a little grim and his attempts to be abusive grate, but what consistently impresses about the former Social Security Secretary is the force of his intelligence.

Where other politicians' instinct is to duck the argument and kick low, Mr Lilley takes his opponent's case at its strongest, answers it, and explains his own. Thus, yesterday, he accepted that the Government's job schemes for the young would create employment, but insisted they would not save money.

He accepted that if you lower the cost of employing people, more will be employed; but — on the same principle — argued that if you raise the cost of employing people, some will lose their jobs.

This, he said, would be the effect of the minimum wage. On the pages of *The Times* business news that might be thought sixth form stuff. In the



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Commons it is water in the desert. MPs actually listened to Mr Lilley.

He was answering David Blunkett, Labour's new Education and Employment Secretary. This was Mr Blunkett's debut at the government dispatch box. He, too, made an assured start.

Mr Blunkett promises to prove a reliable servant to his

young master in Downing Street. Unhurried and unflapped, he is unafraid of pauses. A granite confidence in his case and a solid delivery lend a relentlessness to his speeches.

Partisan in his style, there is something a little sour in the effect, and Blunkett can sound resentful; but he gets to where

he was going and is hard to knock off course on the way, though several young Tory pups tried. It was a novelty to watch a minister speaking with his face raised, his finger moving smoothly over a blank sheet of paper on the Dispatch box before him. How will his civil servants, from their special box, scribble him notes in mid-debate?

Later in the debate came an early Maiden speech from the youngest new Member in the House. The expression of surprise has now worn off the face of Christopher Leslie (Lab.

Shipley) who, elected at 24, astonished everyone, not least himself, by unseating Sir Marcus Fox, the veteran Chairman of the last Tory 1922 Committee.

Mr Leslie amused both sides by remarking that when Sir Marcus delivered his own Maiden speech in 1971, his successor in the seat was minus eighteen months old. I wonder whether a sneezing fit, or a shudder, seized an MP when the baby destined to unseat him is born?

If premonitions are anything to go by, mine —

watching the new House Leader, Ann Taylor, bristled. Opposition backbenches — is that this n gang are likely to prove arrogant and high-hang with the House as the Lib

crats seem to have appointed themselves unpaid poodles the new Government, a cannot kick the habit of ana ing the Conservative Party.

Still, to watch the Tories for once — squealing a whining under a Labour Government front bench he made a delicious change.

Reforms to end all-night sittings in Commons

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SWEEPING reforms to modernise the workings of the House of Commons and to bring the hours of politicians more in line with other professions are to be backed by the Government.

Ann Taylor, Leader of the House, announced yesterday that full debate on the modernisation of Commons procedures would be held next Thursday and a committee would be set up to recommend changes.

Options to be discussed include reducing late-night sittings so that on most evenings votes are not held beyond 10pm, with the occasional division at 11.30pm. All-night sittings, once a regular feature in the Commons, are expected to be consigned to history.

Thursday evening sittings would end whenever possible at 7pm to allow MPs in constituencies outside London to get home to do surgeries on Friday. Government sources admitted it would not be possible to change to a nine-to-five day because of those MPs out of London who could not be expected to attend for a full day on Friday or Monday. One option, however, is to have more morning sessions on midweek days to allow an earlier finish.

During a business statement yesterday Ms Taylor made clear that there would be no question of dropping the plan to confine Prime Minister's questions to a 30-minute slot on Wednesday. Despite an organised barrage of criticism from Tory MPs, Ms Taylor made clear that proposal would go ahead.

Ministerial sources also signalled changes to the Commons year, including a shorter summer recess, and more

constituency weeks at other times of the year. Ministers said yesterday that there were no plans to ask MPs this year to return in September — instead of after the October conferences — but this could happen in future.

Ms Taylor believes that there should be less of a distinction between the sittings of the House and the recess. She argues that committees should be able to work when the House is not formally sitting and backbench MPs should be able to table emergency parliamentary questions during this time.

The committee on modernising procedures in the Commons will also look at changing the way MPs address each other in the Chamber, and the cumbersome voting system. But Ms Taylor has pointed out in the past that letting MPs vote through the division lobbies, rather than introducing a simple computerised system, does give them a chance to meet ministers.

Ms Taylor is also anxious to introduce more draft legislation, and pre-legislation committee meetings which would allow evidence to be taken on bills before they started their Commons passage.

It also emerged that ministers are pressing for prompt action over the "cash for questions" report from Sir Gordon Downey. Sources confirmed that Neil Hamilton, who lost his Tatten seat to Martin Bell, could still be called to give evidence to the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee, an event which may be televised.

Mr Bell, who stood as an anti-corruption candidate, could even be on that committee.

Surrogacy couple 'emotionally paralysed' by mother's actions

FROM MARK FULLER
IN AMSTERDAM

THE Dutch couple whose baby is being carried by a British surrogate mother said yesterday that they were emotionally paralysed by her "huge deceit" in keeping the child.

Sonja and Clemens Peeters said that words could not express the pain they were experiencing. "After the joy of knowing that we were finally going to have a child, and then the sadness at the loss through an abortion, the news came that the pregnancy was still intact," the couple said.

Their statement, issued by Freya, a Dutch support agency for couples with fertility problems, accused the surrogate mother Karen Roche, 31, who allegedly told the Peeters that the child had been aborted while deciding to keep the baby.

"While we were mourning the loss of our child — a child that Sonja felt pregnant with — the emergence of the lie has deeply shocked us," the couple said. "It now appears that the surrogate mother wants to keep the child and we are in despair. We feel anxious, sad and very uncertain about our child's future. We feel terribly deceived by the surrogate mother and are disappointed in Cots [the British surrogate



Before the split: Karen Roche, left, with Sonja Peeters

mothers agency], whom we totally trusted in the beginning."

The Peeters said they had considered using a surrogate mother for two years before taking the step. It was their last option after Mrs Peeters, 38, had suffered five miscarriages in the ten years they had been trying to have a child. The couple said they talked everything through with Mrs Roche and Cots, focusing on the surrogate mother's motives and the consequences. "The surrogate mother assured us from the

very beginning that her family was complete and that she would hand over the child."

The couple added: "The extremely bad aftercare and guidance for the parents was unfortunately fatal for us." Mr and Mrs Peeters said they had told their story to a British newspaper this week to spare other couples "the sadness and unbearable pain" they have experienced and to prevent a repeat of "the terrible drama".

The couple hoped the authorities would create better regulations for surrogate pregnancies, offering more

protection to the would-be parents and ruling out misunderstandings. The statement by Mr and Mrs Peeters, who are staying at a secret address in The Netherlands, said they were too devastated to speak directly to the press. Nevertheless, it was confirmed the couple had given an exclusive interview to a Dutch newspaper.

A spokeswoman for Freya, denied the couple had sought exclusive deals for financial gain. "They are a normal Dutch couple, who are at their wits end. They didn't sleep last night. They have no plans at present," she said. The Dutch were showing little sympathy for the couple yesterday, as MPs pounced on the case as an exemplary justification of the ban on commercial surrogate pregnancies in the Netherlands. "Commercial surrogate pregnancies. Never! Just look at what happens."

A Dutch Social Democrat MP, Mieke van der Burg, said in a newspaper interview: "Such a case is a grim experience for the couple and the surrogate mother. They are both losers." The "commercial arrangement" of surrogate pregnancies by agencies or individuals has been banned in The Netherlands since 1993, although several "non-commercial" cases are said to occur each year.

Minister hints at change in the law

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE Public Health Minister Tessa Jowell signalled a rethink of Britain's surrogacy laws yesterday. She said: "The most important thing is to establish the facts, to look at those facts in the light of existing legislation and then make a judgment about the adequacy of the existing law."

She spoke as the British Medical Association called for Parliament to impose control over organisations such as Kim Cotton's, which introduced Mrs Roche, a nursery nurse, to the Peeters.

The United Kingdom is fast becoming the rent-a-womb capital of western Europe, with couples rushing to private clinics in London to take advantage of the "blind eye" turned to surrogacy by British law. The French and Dutch forbid surrogacy and it is discouraged in

Germany. A Kim Cotton-figure in France would risk being jailed for a year and fined 100,000 Francs under laws which punish anyone who is regarded as provoking a mother to "abandon" her child. The mothers escape punishment.

The private London Gynaecology and Fertility Centre has helped infertile women from France, Germany and the Netherlands. They are referred to Mrs Cotton's organisation Childlessness Overcome Through Surrogacy, known as COTS, a voluntary network of amateurs who provide free advice linking potential British surrogates with childless couples.

The London clinic, a pioneer in test-tube baby treatments, insists that all parties must be interviewed by a psychiatrist and refers each case to its ethics committee. It charges at least £2,400 per surrogacy. The centre has rejected poten-

tial surrogates who have failed to consider fully the implications of giving up a baby, and recently refused to impregnate a struggling mother-of-two who seemed to be too keen on the money.

Under BMA guidelines, surrogate mothers can be paid reasonable expenses of up to £10,000. (Commercial surrogacy is outlawed under British law.) COTS has helped produce 200 surrogate babies. Mrs Cotton says the Yorkshirewoman and the Dutch couple ignored all her guidelines by, for example, trying insemination almost immediately rather than getting to know each other.

Bill O'Neill, the BMA's ethics adviser, said the Department of Health should consider regulating organisations like COTS and the other main surrogate network Hope, and called for more research into psychological effects.

Widdecombe quits as shadow as feud with Howard heats up

By ANDREW PIERCE AND RICHARD FORD

ANN WIDDECOMBE resigned from the Tory front bench yesterday, minutes before she was pushed, as her feud with Michael Howard heated for a Commons showdown on Monday.

The Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, had earlier rejected a request for a personal statement by the former Prison Minister. But Miss Widdecombe will be given the chance to air her grievances against the former Home Secretary during the debate on the Queen's Speech.

Alastair Goodlad, the Tory Chief Whip, called in Miss Widdecombe yesterday to try to persuade her to call off her campaign. But it emerged that she has new allegations to level against her former boss. She will allege that Mr

Howard misled the House of Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs about over-spending on prison security.

During the meeting with Mr Goodlad she refused to back down from her highly public stance. "I can confirm that my position with regard to Mr Howard is not compatible with my membership of the Front Bench. I pointed out to Mr Goodlad that I did not consider myself a member of the Front Bench. He was greatly relieved," she said.

Last night Paddy Seligman, former chairman of the board of visitors at Whitemoor top-security jail in Cambridgeshire, accused Mr Howard of misleading MPs about the escape of five IRA men and an armed robber from the jail in September 1994. She said

that Mr Howard should have taken responsibility after the escape and resigned. "He was grossly unfair in the way he proportioned responsibility after the escapes at Whitemoor and Parkhurst. It appears Ann Widdecombe has pulled the plug on the whole thing and Mr Howard's role. Mr Howard should have taken the lion's share of the responsibility for the incident at Whitemoor because Mr Lewis was working with his hands tied."

Mr Howard, who on Monday night will open the debate for the Tory Opposition, will be on the Front Bench when Miss Widdecombe speaks. She made little secret yesterday of her aim. "I want to wreck his chances of leading the Tory Party," she said.

Tory vote

Continued from page 1
We should do it in time for the coming contest. There is growing support for the idea."

Tory grandees such as Lord Cranborne, who was Leader of the House of Lords, are pressing for the leadership contest to be delayed because they believe that MPs should have more time to make a considered judgement. They want a caretaker leader to replace John Major until a new election after the October party conference.

Mr MacGregor, who opposed delaying the contest, cited some of the practical difficulties about giving a vote to the association chairmen or their executive committees. They include whether they would also have a vote in a second or third ballot and whether peers and Euro MPs should also become involved. John Butterfield, who is hoping to secure the nomination of the right-wing 92 group of MPs, also backed changes.

Heaney mourns murdered friend

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

SEAMUS HEANEY, the Nobel prize-winning Irish poet, has written about the sectarian murder this week of a lifelong friend. In a letter to the *Irish News*, Professor Heaney said that Sean Brown, who was abducted by loyalists in Bellaghy, Co Londonderry, on Monday night, was a man of integrity and goodwill.

He wrote: "Sean Brown's murder was shocking and sinister. I have known two generations of the Brown family. They are people of great probity, much respected in the Bellaghy district."

Mr Brown, 62, married with six children, was abducted as he locked up Bellaghy's Gaelic Athletic Association club after a weekend celebrating the Derry under-21 team winning the All-Ireland finals.

Professor Heaney recalled how Mr Brown presided at a reception last year at the club to celebrate after he won the 1995 Nobel Prize for Literature. "Many things were precious about that evening, including Sean's presentation to me of a painting of Lough Beg and the country around it, where we both grew up. But even more important was the fact that the celebration was attended by people from both sides of the community."

"He represented something better than we have grown used to, something not quite covered by the word reconciliation, because that word has become a policy word. This was more like purification, a release from what the Greeks called the 'miasma', the stain of spilled blood."

Head teachers face test on standards

Schools will not be allowed to appoint a head teacher unless the candidate has gained a qualification teaching them how to develop an "educational vision committed to raising standards", the Prime Minister said yesterday.

Tony Blair announced plans for a mandatory qualification on the day the first voluntary headship courses were advertised. The plan will be included in legislation in the autumn. But cannot be enforced for several years as the course will take between one and three years to complete. Head teachers' leaders welcomed the plans but said that teachers should not be expected to meet the cost of studying for up to three years out of their own pockets.

Defaulters to avoid jail

The Home Secretary is to end the jailing of fine defaulters and introduce limits on the length of time prisoners can be held on remand, in an attempt to ease population difficulties in jails by making an estimated 4,000 cells available. Jack Straw, who will today make his first prison visit as Home Secretary, is also to drop plans to curb the right to jury trial for some offenders.

No jury for Aitken case

Jonathan Aitken, the former Chief Secretary to the Treasury, will have his libel action against *The Guardian* and Granada TV heard by a judge without a jury. In the Court of Appeal yesterday, Lord Bingham, the Lord Chief Justice, upheld a judge's decision that the 10-week case over allegations about his public life would be too complex to be tried by a jury.

Mother wins birth case

A mother who had a high-risk pregnancy after a hospital failed to diagnose primary pulmonary hypertension, a life-threatening condition, is expected to receive up to £500,000 damages. Mrs X, 39, a nurse, is unlikely to see her daughter, now six, grow up. The High Court ruled that Croydon Health Authority was liable for the pregnancy, birth and upbringing of the girl. The award will be assessed later.

Car-boot mugger

A businesswoman aged 24, from Hertfordshire, was pushed into the boot of her car at knife-point by a robber at a car park in Shepherd's Bush, west London. He drove to a secluded corner of the car park, reopened the boot, took her cashpoint card and made her reveal her PIN. He left her locked in while he went to withdraw £200. On his return, he opened the boot and fled.

Coleman says it's all over

David Coleman, right, the presenter of television's longest running sports quiz *A Question of Sport*, is to stand down after 18 years. He announced his decision after recording the last programme in the current series, to be broadcast later this month. Mr Coleman, 71, who will remain with the BBC as senior athletics commentator, said he wanted to pursue other projects not necessarily connected to television. He said yesterday: "I considered retiring a year ago when Ian Botham and Bill Beaumont left, but since I had been involved in the choice of Ally McCoist and John Parrott to succeed them, I felt I should remain to nurse them through their first series. But within five minutes of their first programme, I knew I really wasn't needed."

Attic 'drug plantation'

The son of an apple tycoon had a "small plantation" of 150 cannabis plants growing in the attic of his house in Southwell, Nottinghamshire, a jury was told. Henry Starkey, 23, the son of millionaire Sir John Starkey, a former High Sheriff of the county and head of the family fruit business, was part of a conspiracy to cultivate the drug, Nottingham Crown Court heard.

Touts cash in on final

Tickets for tomorrow's FA Cup final between Chelsea and Middlesbrough are being sold on the black market for more than 20 times their face value. Touts, who are selling £35 seats for more than £800, are taking advantage of recent legislation which has restricted the resale of tickets. Steve Double, an FA spokesman, said: "The prices are the highest we have heard for the final."

Racing high ju manners

faces civil after being of assault



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THE CITI NEVER SLEEPS.

Peers jokingly rebuke themselves for not standing up properly, as call grows for official to resign

Mr Racing faces the high jump in manners row

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

WITH his left hand thrust deep into a trouser pocket — the behaviour he supposedly abhors — John Jenyns arrived at York racecourse yesterday to officiate at a big meeting for probably the last time.

The chairman of the York panel of stewards will be expected to do the decent thing and tender his resignation as an official after the way he treated two television executives this week.

The York race committee, whose membership includes the Earl of Halifax and the Marquess of Hartington, believes that Jenyns was "unforgivably rude" when he ordered John Fairley, a former managing director of Yorkshire Television, and Andrew Franklin, producer of Channel 4 racing, to remain standing during a half-hour meeting at the racecourse on Tuesday. He also told Mr Fairley to take his hand out of a pocket.

Brooke Holliday, chairman of the York race committee, has apologised to Mr Fairley and Mr Franklin. Mr Holliday said: "Of course I am concerned. Everybody is concerned about bad manners."

It is believed that if Mr Jenyns, 52, does not submit his

resignation in the next few days, he will be asked to offer it, according to reliable sources. The country solicitor, known as York's Mr Racing, will also be expected to step down as a steward at Pontefract and Redcar, where he also officiates, ending a stewarding career stretching back to 1979.

The chairman of stewards panels are appointed by individual racecourses and approved by the Jockey Club. The bodies were anxious yesterday not to tread on each others' toes as they worked out how to deal with the issue.

The Jockey Club, which has ultimate responsibility for racing's integrity, is hoping that the York racing committee will resolve the issue of Mr Jenyns's departure. However, it will have to respond to a formal complaint by Mr Fairley which could lead to them inquiring into whether the official has brought racing into disrepute.

Although there was no shortage of light-hearted banter at York yesterday — with peers and officials rebuking themselves for having hands in their pockets and not standing up properly — Mr Jenyns

looked grim when he arrived at the racecourse, which was once a place of public executions.

He barged his way through a phalanx of reporters and photographers, saying: "No comment. I say no comment. No comment."

The Jockey Club issued a statement which read: "The Senior Steward [Sir Thomas Pilkington] is very concerned about what happened. The chairman of the disciplinary committee, Christopher Hall, is discussing the whole situation with the York race committee, who nominate the chairman of panels."

Sir Thomas added: "I deplore anything that doesn't do racing any good. It is not a pleasant incident, but I won't say any more until I have received the complaint."

Meanwhile, the Jockey Club announced it was taking steps to ensure that television and radio are able to make the most of their racing coverage. Christopher Foster, executive director, said: "A number of new ideas are being considered which will demonstrate our recognition of the crucial role television plays in marketing our product to the public."



John Jenyns yesterday: the Jockey Club said television plays "a crucial role"

Country squire who has ruffled a few feathers

BY PAUL WILKINSON

JOHN Fitzgerald Willcox Jenyns is a man who engenders strong opinions in those who meet him.

Some residents of his village of Huttons Ambo, North Yorkshire, see him as a distant landlord. Much of the hamlet is owned by Mr Jenyns, who moved in more than 20 years ago when he married the squire's daughter Kathleen, who was known as "Mops".

Her father, Colonel Lewis Starkey, owned a large estate based on Huttons Ambo Hall. Geoff Rennie, a North Yorkshire county councillor who lives in the village, said: "He has ruffled a few feathers round here when he might have been smoothing them. His style was a bit abrasive. Perhaps his ways of dealing with people in his professional business are not suitable in village life."

"He has not got involved in village life; he has been very distant. There was an expectation that he would take over the role of his father-in-law when he died. He was the squire, the village benefactor, but Mr Jenyns did not seem interested. He kept himself very much to himself as far as the village was concerned."

Another villager, who asked not to be named, said: "He is a strict landlord. People get official letters from his agent ordering them to cut their

grass or tidy up their garden. He likes the village to look like a picture book. People do as they are told when the owner of their home tells them."

A local businessman who has had dealings with Mr Jenyns over the years said he was not clubbable. "He is the sort of person who speaks to you on the phone, then when you see him on the street ten minutes later he walks by as if he has never seen you before."

Mr Jenyns is involved with the country set of North Yorkshire, riding to hounds with two local hunts and fly-fishing. He qualified as a solicitor in 1972. His firm, Hiley's, in Thirsk, is a small high street practice. Mr Jenyns specialises in litigation and divorce actions.

Peter Hannam, a partner in the solicitors, where Mr Jenyns has worked as an assistant for the past 10 years, said: "It would be unreasonable to expect me to comment about a colleague but put it like this: I don't think I would be able to work with somebody if we were falling out all the time."

Nicholas Brooksbank, a family friend who works in the York offices of Christie's, the auctioneers, said: "He is highly regarded by those who know him. He is absolutely straightforward, a man of integrity."

Boxer faces civil action after being cleared of assault

BY RICHARD DUCE

THE former world champion boxer Nigel Benn was yesterday cleared of wounding a man in a nightclub but was refused defence costs after a judge ruled he had brought the prosecution on himself.

Benn, 33, was acquitted of all criminal charges. But it emerged later that his alleged victim, Ray Sullivan, who the boxer once thought of as "like a brother", plans a civil action in an attempt to get compensation for his injuries.

The boxer also faces further court action after the Crown Prosecution Service confirmed it was to press a charge that Mr Benn had made threats to kill his former wife Sharon earlier this year.

Mr Sullivan, known as "Roxey", needed 105 stitches in his nose after he was attacked, allegedly with a glass ashtray, in a Mayfair nightclub in September. Mr Benn had told the jury that he had seen a scuffle in the club but both he and a friend had then left the building.

A jury at Middlesex Guildhall Crown Court yesterday accepted Mr Benn's defence that Mr Sullivan, also 33, had attempted to frame him. Mr Benn, whose hands were once insured for £10 million, was cleared both of wounding Mr Sullivan with

intent to cause him grievous bodily harm and a lesser charge of unlawful wounding. After jurors cleared Mr Benn, he turned to them, bowed and said: "Thank you."

Judge Derek Munby refused an application for costs by Mr Benn's lawyers, Trevor Burke. "In my view he did bring the prosecution on himself," the judge said, leaving the former WBO Middleweight champion with an estimated legal bill of up to £100,000.

The court had heard that Mr Benn, from Beckenham, southeast London, refused to answer police questions after he was linked to the attack on Mr Sullivan, a convicted drugs dealer, at Legends nightclub.

Mr Benn, divorced from his wife and accompanied by his girlfriend, Caroline Jackson, who he plans to marry this summer, said after the case: "It was in the Lord's hands and the jury's and they saw through it."

Mr Benn, who was known as the "Dark Destroyer", said the most important thing to him was knowing that his older children no longer needed to be scared of going to school. They could return to their classrooms knowing their father was innocent.



Benn leaving court with Miss Jackson yesterday

Boy burnt down school after drink of alcopop

BY PETER POSTER

ALCOPOP manufacturers were condemned as "grossly irresponsible" by a judge yesterday after a drunken 14-year-old boy burnt down a school. The teenager, who had been drinking Hooper's Hooch and some cider, caused damage estimated at about £750,000.

Judge Peter Lakin said: "It is grossly irresponsible of the drinks companies to market these drinks and dress up alcohol as soft drinks."

His remarks at Bolton Crown Court came days after the drinks industry watchdog the Portman Group proposed tougher guidelines on making alcoholic drinks appeal to under-18s. A statement issued by Nigel Griffiths, Minister for Consumer Affairs at the Department of Trade and Industry, warned the industry that further action might be taken if the new guidelines were not effective.

A recent survey of teenage drinkers in Wales showed that more than a quarter of girls aged 15 and 16 drank no alcohol except for lemonade and cola-flavoured drinks.

Bass Breweries, makers of Hooper's Hooch, said last night: "Bass takes its promotional responsibilities very seriously and acts in line with the Portman Group code of conduct. However, we must also rely on landlords and off-licenses to adopt a similarly responsible attitude."

The court was told that the boy broke in to Withins School, Bolton, in May last year with three companions and set fire to a poster, starting a blaze that engulfed a large part of the school. He admitted burglary and arson and was given a two-year supervision order.

He was ordered to attend a fire service course aimed at arsonists. His parents were ordered to pledge a £1,000 bond to ensure his good behaviour until he reaches 18.

Clever men in glasses often do make passes, say researchers

BY EMMA WILKINS

HIGHLY educated men are more likely to have affairs than those who failed to pay attention while at school, researchers say. Those with university degrees and A-levels are twice as likely to commit adultery than those with low or no qualifications.

But for women, being a housewife does not affect the likelihood of adultery. Instead, having a job which requires occasional overnight stays away from home is more likely to be the trigger that leads to an affair.

The proportion of people admitting to adultery, how-

ever, is small. Just 5 per cent of women and 10 per cent of men said their sexual partners had "overlapped" during the previous five years.

Nearly 19,000 people aged 16 to 59 were questioned for the survey, which was first published in 1994. The data is now being re-analysed by researchers funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and some of their findings are published in *The Times Higher Education Supplement* today.

The further research may be useful for sex educationists. Kaye Wellings, a social scientist who is working on the report, said: "There could

be several reasons why men who have degrees are more likely to have several partners.

"When they are at university they are in an environment where there is plenty of opportunity to gain sexual partners. They are also people who are less likely to be in a hurry to settle into home and marriage because they have other things to concentrate on, like careers."

Dr Wellings said that monogamy was still the norm: "We have a population that is heavily committed to one partner with 80 per cent of men and women saying their sexual infidelity is wrong."

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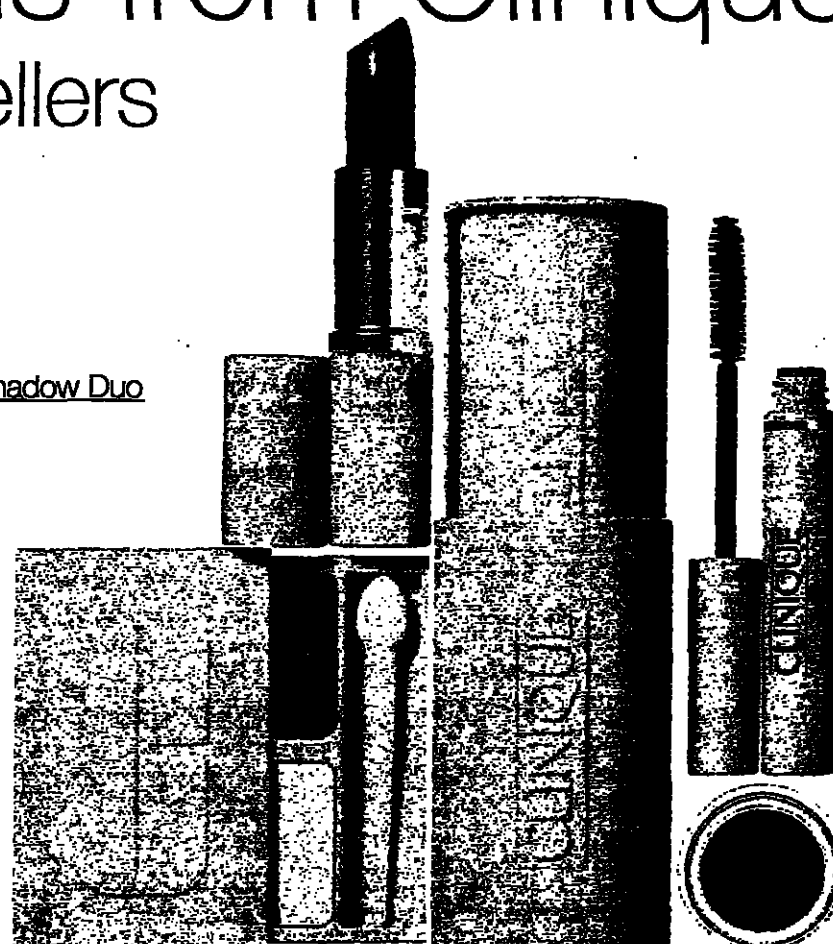
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Sale price vindicates undergraduates who blew year's cash to acquire an early Bacon

Painting bought in 1953 may earn students £700,000

By Peter Foster

A PAINTING bought by a group of art-loving students for £150 more than 40 years ago is expected to fetch up to £700,000 at auction next month.

Man in a Chair, a portrait by Francis Bacon, was acquired by undergraduates at Pembroke College, Oxford in 1953, when Bacon was establishing his name. About 150 students each paid £1 into a kitty to buy pictures for the junior common room art society which was founded in 1947.

The shrewd investment was made after a visit to a Bacon exhibition in the basement of the Beaux Arts Gallery in London's West End. The student buying committee was so impressed that it spent an entire year's acquisition money on the canvas showing an unknown male nude slouched in a throne-like chair.

The picture is to be auctioned in London on June 26 by Sotheby's, which says the £150 price is equivalent to about £5,000 today.

The purchase was not simply an impulse buy by lucky students. They were advised by Sir Kenneth Clark, the former director of the National Gallery who later won

acclaim for the BBC series *Civilisation*. It was Sir Kenneth who suggested the students see the Bacon show. The painting hung in the junior common room until 1990 but, with Bacon by now internationally famous, the college could not afford the insurance. It gave the painting to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford for safekeeping.

It is now recognised as a fine example of Bacon's early work which looks forward to similar paintings such as *Study for a Portrait* and the major series of works based on Pope Innocent X after Velázquez.

"It was a pretty sharp buy,"



Clark advised students to see the Bacon show

said Elena Geuna, head of Sotheby's European contemporary art department. "It is remarkable that a committee of undergraduates had such a refined eye to acquire this more than 45 years ago."

"Bacon's psychological intensity, which made him one of the great British artists of the 20th century, gives this early portrait its tremendous impact," she added.

Richard Jannoo, president of Pembroke junior common room, said the proceeds of the sale would go towards cataloguing and restoring the remainder of the JCR's big collection, which includes modernist works by Graham Sutherland, John Piper and Victor Pasmore. The committee also hopes to set up bursaries to help less well-off students studying fine art at Oxford. Mr Jannoo said: "Our aim is to continue the work of founders of the collection who wanted to enhance the education of students."

It is not uncommon for the junior common rooms of Oxford colleges to own large and valuable art collections. In many colleges students rent out pictures for a small fee and hang them in their rooms. In one memorable case a student



Man in a Chair hung in the junior common room at Pembroke College until insurance became too costly

at New College was rooting through a cupboard in the early 1980s for a vacuum cleaner. Instead he found a Singer Sargent watercolour. The painting was dusted off

and exhibited for several years and was sold recently in New York for £60,000.

The sale of the picture comes at the end of two years of often fraught deliberations

by the college which is one of the least wealthy in Oxford. In 1995, when students went on a rent strike after a 21 per cent increase, college authorities advised the undergraduates to

sell their painting. Students resisted at the time and are adamant that the proceeds of next month's sale will be spent within the spirit of the art society rules.

Drink-drive judge has jail term cut

A former Crown Court Recorder who was jailed for five months for being nearly five times over the drink-drive limit in an accident had his sentence reduced to two months yesterday on appeal. The case had devastated the life of John Reeder, 48, a specialist Admiralty Counsel, so his punishment was already "considerable". Mr Justice Butterfield said at Bristol Crown Court. Reeder, from Tolleshunt D'Arcy, Essex, resigned recently as Recorder. He heard mainly civil cases.

War reunion

The 29,000 men and women who took part in the Falklands War have been invited to a two-day reunion to mark the fifth anniversary of the Argentine surrender on June 14. Sir Rex Hunt, former Falklands Governor, is expected to attend the event in Gosport.

Washington gala

Diana, Princess of Wales, is to attend an American Red Cross gala dinner in Washington on June 17 that aims to raise \$500,000 for landmine victims. The Princess's visit to Angola in January focused world attention on the plight of those injured by landmines.

Parade banned

Police have told organisers of a loyalist Apprentice Boys parade planned for Sunday through the mainly nationalist village of Dunloy, Co Antrim, that they will not be allowed to march their chosen route. The organisers are considering their next move.

Sailing blind

One in five recreational sailors seldom or never checks the weather forecast before setting out and more than a quarter do not check tide tables, an RNLI survey found. Lifeboats saved 1291 lives in 1996, the RNLI chairman announced. Forecast, page 26

Strip search

Footballers with the Scottish second-division team Queen of the South will carry a crime-busting message on their shirts next season after the Dumfries and Galloway force won a raffle to be sponsors. Ninety organisations bought £250 tickets.

Mr C E P Colombotti

A City diary item (May 7) wrongly suggested that Carlo Colombotti had bogged himself as a count, a title he does not hold and has never claimed. However, he has twice been made Commendatore by the Italian republic, for services to charity. We apologise for any embarrassment caused to Mr Colombotti.

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Talking computer develops attitude

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

A COMPUTER that can converse on current affairs or gossip about life with the panache of Jeremy Paxman or Coronation Street's Vera Duckworth has been developed by British researchers.

They believe the system could eventually replace marriage guidance counsellors and staff at Citizens Advice Bureaux. It could also supplant the dog or the cat as a companion.

At present the communications are text or message based but it is hoped to add synthesised voice sounds. The system, called Converse, has been developed by a team at Sheffield University and Intelligent Research, of northwest London. David Levy, of Intelligent Research, said it could be programmed to have an "aggressive, teenage personality" or that of a "middle-aged, male aristocrat". He said Converse was programmed to hold conversations on up to 60 topics from President Clinton to food, music and films.

The computer's ability to mimic a human is so acute that it managed to fool five judges in an international competition held in New York. They thought they were "talking" to a person while discussing the recent visit of the actress Ellen DeGeneres to the White House.

Converse won the Loebner Prize, organised by the Cambridge Centre for Behavioural Studies in America. The prize is given to a computer that can pass the Turing Test, in which conversations are held via a computer terminal. Judges have to guess whether they are talking to a human being or to a machine. One judge asked: "Have you seen the movie Mars Attacks?"

The programme replied: "Give me a break - I'm just here to answer dumb questions - not that!"

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One year after 'road-rage' killing: 'We laid Stephen to rest but can't grieve until we have justice'

Why is killer still free, ask family of M25 murder victim

By ADRIAN LEE AND STEWART TENDLER

THE family of Stephen Cameron, who died in the arms of his fiancée after being stabbed beside the M25, are preparing this weekend for the first anniversary of his death. For them the pain of bereavement is intensified by the knowledge that the murderer is still free.

Within days of Mr Cameron's death the police were treating Kenneth Noye, the Brink's-Mat gold launderer who is a major underworld figure, as a prime suspect. Since then no trace has been found of Noye, 49, the murder weapon or the Land Rover Discovery driven by the killer. A Discovery registered to Anthony Francis, an alias used by Noye, has not been found.

Noye's description has been circulated throughout Britain and by Interpol abroad. But, except for rumours of him living in Tenerife, Florida, northern Cyprus and Russia, there have been no leads. Mr Cameron's parents said yesterday that they would not find peace until the killer of their 21-year-old son had been caught. "We have laid Stephen to rest but we can't really grieve until we have had justice," said his mother, Toni. "I am dreading the anniversary. This time last year we were all so happy: Stephen had the world at his feet. I feel angry and helpless and, of course, we are frustrated by the lack of progress."

Mrs Cameron and her husband, Ken, married for 23 years, refuse to discuss Kenneth Noye by name. He is simply "the man". They are puzzled why he has not come forward to clear his name.

The attack happened on the morning of Sunday, May 19, when Mr Cameron was being driven by his fiancée, Danielle Cable, to buy bagels. The Discovery cut in front of them and Mr Cameron shook his

head at the driver, then got out of his van at traffic lights. There was an argument, a scuffle and Mr Cameron was fatally stabbed. Withered flowers and a crude metal cross mark where he fell.

Miss Cable, now 18, wears his ring and lives with Mr Cameron's parents in Swanley, Kent, half a mile from the murder scene. She posed for photographs yesterday, but could not smile.

"I can't say she is happy," Mrs Cameron, 50, a theatre nurse, said. "She goes out to nightclubs and discos but



Stephen Cameron: died in arms of fiancée

there is still a lot locked away. We would like her to start a new relationship and get married and have children. I cannot say that wouldn't hurt, but we don't want to be possessive."

The couple make the effort to go out and have been on holiday to Florida with their elder son, Michael, but find little joy. Mr Cameron said: "We are just seeing out the rest of our lives. I find it very difficult to get enthusiastic."

"But, one day, we will be staring across a court looking at him." The prime suspect for "him" is Kenneth Noye. The last time Noye saw the inside

of a British court was 1986, when he was jailed for 14 years for laundering gold from the £26 million Brink's-Mat robbery. He settled with the loss adjusters for £3 million. Police believe that he still has a large amount of money at his disposal.

Born in 1947, the son of a post office manager in Bexleyheath, southeast London, he began his criminal career stealing cars and was sent to Borstal in his teens.

Later he had a car sales and haulage business.

In the Seventies and Eighties he was a gold smuggler. While under police observation in 1984 he fatally stabbed an undercover officer at his home in West Kingsdown, Kent. He was acquitted of murder when a jury accepted that he had acted in self-defence.

After serving his Brink's-Mat sentence Noye returned to his family home, but today his wife, Brenda, says she has no idea of his whereabouts. The south London underworld believes that he is on an island off northern Cyprus, which does not have an extradition treaty with Britain.

Noye also has powerful friends in Tenerife and Portugal. Another possible hiding place is Florida, one of his favourite holiday locations. At one stage he may have flown to Moscow and St Petersburg where he had explored business interests.

Kent police have not issued any arrest warrants in connection with Mr Cameron's death because they have insufficient evidence. His father, manager of a cleaning firm, does not criticise the detectives: "They are doing their best, but I did think we would have seen some sort of result by now. I hate the thought of dying without justice for Stephen."



Toni and Ken Cameron have encouraged Stephen's fiancée, Danielle Cable, to build a new life, but they are drawn together by their grief

Suspect Noye left life of luxury behind

By JOANNA BALE

WHEN Kenneth Noye vanished after the murder of Stephen Cameron, he left behind his wife, Brenda, and two grown-up sons, Kevin and Brett. In spite of his sudden disappearance he left the family well provided for and Mrs Noye continues the luxury life she enjoyed while they were together.

Last month she sold her squash club, Racquets Sport and Leisure, at Dartford, Kent, for £140,000. Noye, a fitness fanatic, had bought it for her 15 years ago.

Instead of investing the money, she immediately ordered a £65,000 Mercedes to replace her silver M-registration model. Paul Finn, 27, a

former barman at the club, who bought the business from her, said: "She used to take an active part in running the place but when her husband disappeared she lost interest. I think she just wanted to retire. She does not appear to be the least bit short of money."

Mrs Noye and her two sons live in a £300,000 detached house at Riverhead, near Sevenoaks, which Mrs Noye bought while her husband was serving 14 years for handling Brink's-Mat gold. The family moved there in 1988 to begin a "new life", anxious to leave the house in West Kingsdown where Noye stabbed an undercover policeman to death. His plea of self-



Noye: left family well provided for

defence was accepted and he was acquitted of murder.

Mrs Noye, 46, has told police she has no idea where her husband has gone, say-

ing: "We lead quite separate lives." Kevin, 22, a property dealer, and Brett, 20, a City dealer, also say they have not had any contact with their father. In the past she has dismissed talk of divorcing her husband of 26 years and has protested his innocence.

One acquaintance, who declined to be named, said: "Brenda is very cut up about Kenny disappearing and all the publicity it has attracted. She looks like she has the world on her shoulders a lot of the time. Although she's a hard woman, she gets depressed by it all. But her sons are very protective and she has a wide circle of friends. She spends her time shopping and socialising and is learning to play golf."

Mrs Noye met her husband as a teenager when she was a secretary in a harrister's chambers. The daughter of an ultrasonic engineer and a computer worker from Erith, she impressed him with her blond good looks and forthright personality. Six years later they married and settled into a modest bungalow. Noye soon became a successful businessman with a variety of interests in cars and property and the couple enjoyed a millionaire lifestyle.

When Noye disappeared, he was still living with his wife although he had a string of mistresses. According to friends, Mrs Noye turned a blind eye to her husband's infidelities and remained the loyal wife.

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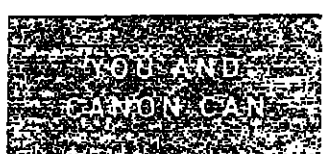
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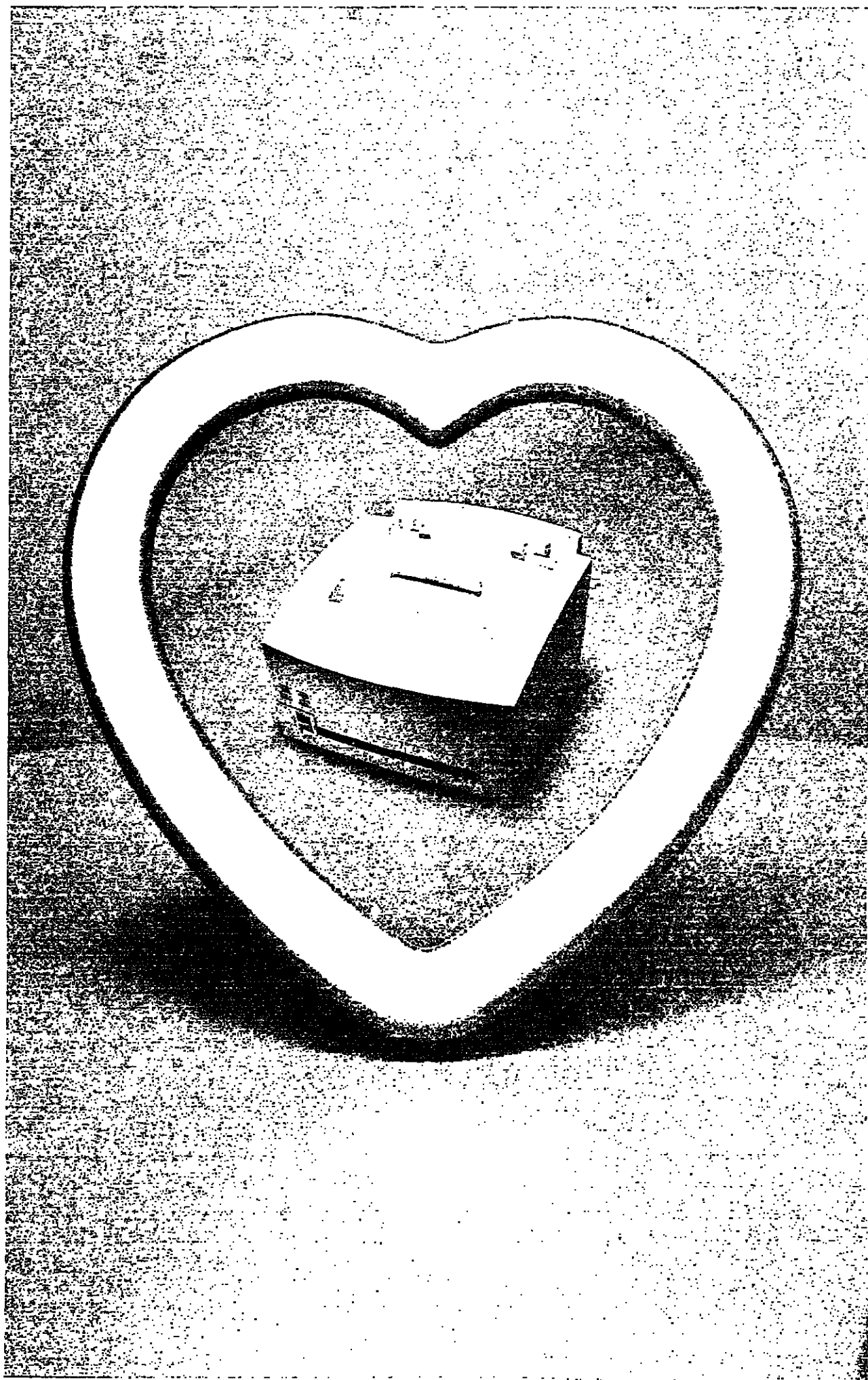
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Prehistoric creature labelled as a thief was clever and caring, Natural History Museum shows

Brainy dinosaur shatters a fossilised reputation

By Nigel Hawkes
SCIENCE EDITOR

DINOSAURS were stupid, vicious or both, according to popular belief. Now evidence is to go on show of a clever and caring member of the scaly race.

Oviraptor had suffered as bad a reputation as the rest: its name means egg-stealer. It was long believed to be a scavenger that fed on the offspring of other dinosaurs because its fossils were often found near eggs believed to belong to another species, *protoceratops*.

An expedition in the Gobi Desert led by an American naturalist transformed understanding of *oviraptor*. Dr Michael Novacek, of the American Museum of Natural History, uncovered a fossilised skeleton showing an *oviraptor* incubating its own eggs, wrapping its limbs around them to keep them warm.

Far from being an egg-stealer, *oviraptor* was a caring



A clutch of dinosaur eggs in the summer exhibition

parent as devoted to its young as a modern bird. Now Rinchin Barsbold, Director of the Geological Institute of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences, says it also had a brain proportionately much greater than any other dinosaur's.

The finely preserved *Oviraptor* skeleton will go on show at the Natural History Museum, London, on Sunday with examples of its eggs. They form part of the museum's summer exhibition, *Dinosaurs of the Gobi Desert*.

Most come from the collection of the institute in Ulaanbaatar which Dr Barsbold directs.

He believes that *oviraptor* was as intelligent as a modern bird of prey, such as an eagle. He is also convinced that unlike many other dinosaurs it was warm-blooded, and that its anatomy and behaviour link it directly to modern birds.

"Cold-blooded animals

don't sit on their eggs," Dr Barsbold said. "So this find gives us the basis for believing that *oviraptor* was warm-blooded and incubated its eggs like a bird. We have no direct evidence of that but the indirect evidence is strong."

The Gobi Desert has proved a treasure house for dinosaur fossils since the 1920s. Many died in sandstorms and the exhibition includes one trying to protect itself against the sand by cradling its head between its legs. A great variety of dinosaur eggs is on show, including 22 types found in Mongolia.

Many of the dinosaurs in the exhibition, which runs until the end of August, are ancestors of those later found in North America. They include the formidable *tarbosaurus* ("alarming lizard"), a relative of *tyrannosaurus rex* that weighed two to three tonnes and had a jaw more than 4ft long. Its brain, however, was no larger than that of a much smaller species of *oviraptor*, weighing 40-50 kg.



Rinchin Barsbold, holding a model of an *oviraptor* egg, confronts a formidable *tarbosaurus* skeleton

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Memory loss and road to dementia



MEDICAL BRIEFING

HOW often will a deteriorating memory in an older patient lead to dementia? Losing spectacles, forgetting names, even missing appointments are all part of the normal ageing process, nothing more than forgetfulness.

Unfortunately, increasingly severe memory loss is also usually - the first sign of Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia and therefore causes anxiety in patients and their families.

The Lancet recently reported on a four-year study of 21 people unaffected by age except for severe memory loss. Their progress was compared to other patients of similar background who had signs of intellectual impairment and memory loss but whose affliction could not be described as dementia or severe memory loss. The downhill progress of those with severe memory loss was faster and more likely to lead to dementia than was the case in the control group who had more varied but less severe symptoms.

Within four years half the patients who had seemed to

be well-orientated except for their marked loss of memory had shown classic signs of dementia. Patients with established Alzheimer's suffer from not only a bad memory but may also be disorientated, confused, neglect their appearance and cease to behave in a well-socialised manner. Some become abusive and demanding, others compliant. Those patients who were originally seen by the doctor because of a mixed bag of symptoms of falling mental prowess fared better. Only 18 per cent have become obviously demented.

Severe memory loss is different from forgetfulness: it is only a matter of degree, and one may lead to the other, but the difference is obvious when talking to a patient. The other reassuring fact is that, with the recently introduced treatment of early Alzheimer's with drugs such as Aricept, it is likely that memory loss will increasingly be amenable to drug treatment.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

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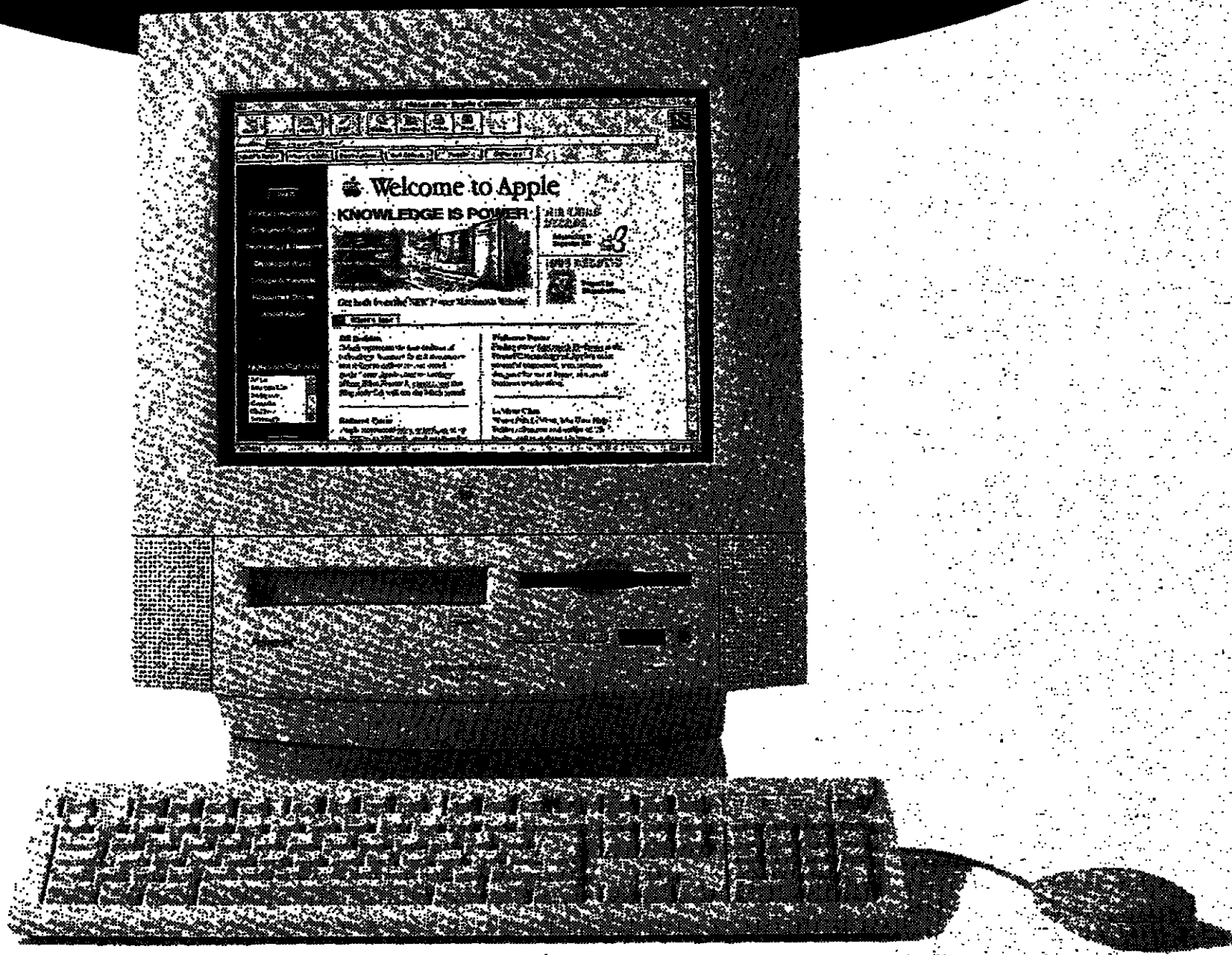
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£57m from Heritage Lottery Fund will reverse decline of past 20 years

Public parks to regain their lost splendour

By Marcus Binney

THE people's gardens of Victorian and Edwardian England are to regain a splendour many lost in the past 20 years. Yesterday the Heritage Lottery Fund launched a £57-million grant programme in response to public concern about the state of the nation's urban parks.

The money will go to revive 48 neglected or run-down parks in spas towns, industrial cities and county towns. Among the biggest beneficiaries are seaside resorts where promenade gardens were laid out for the entertainment of visitors who arrived by rail on 13-coach excursion specials during the Twenties and Thirties. Vandalised Victorian cemeteries will also benefit.

Hazel Conway, a member of the grant panel, said the decline began with the removal of park railings in the Second World War as raw material for the war effort and accelerated in the 1970s when parks departments were merged with leisure services. "Parks' budgets were the first to be cut. Then came the disappearance of the park keeper, as a result of Compulsory Competitive Tendering and the use of outside contractors. As maintenance declined, the vandals, winos and druggies moved in and ordinary people no longer felt safe."

Dr Conway continued: "Civic nurseries were closed and glass houses which supplied flowers for civic occasions were demolished or abandoned. Training schemes for young gardeners were cut. In gardening, modernism meant an abhorrence of ornament and elaborate Victorian flower beds were replaced by grass."

The Heritage Lottery Fund is to contribute towards the cost of ten park keepers who will live on site. In the 19th century, park keepers had the reputation of keeping a tight rein on their domain. From 1846 they were sworn in as special constables. Offences

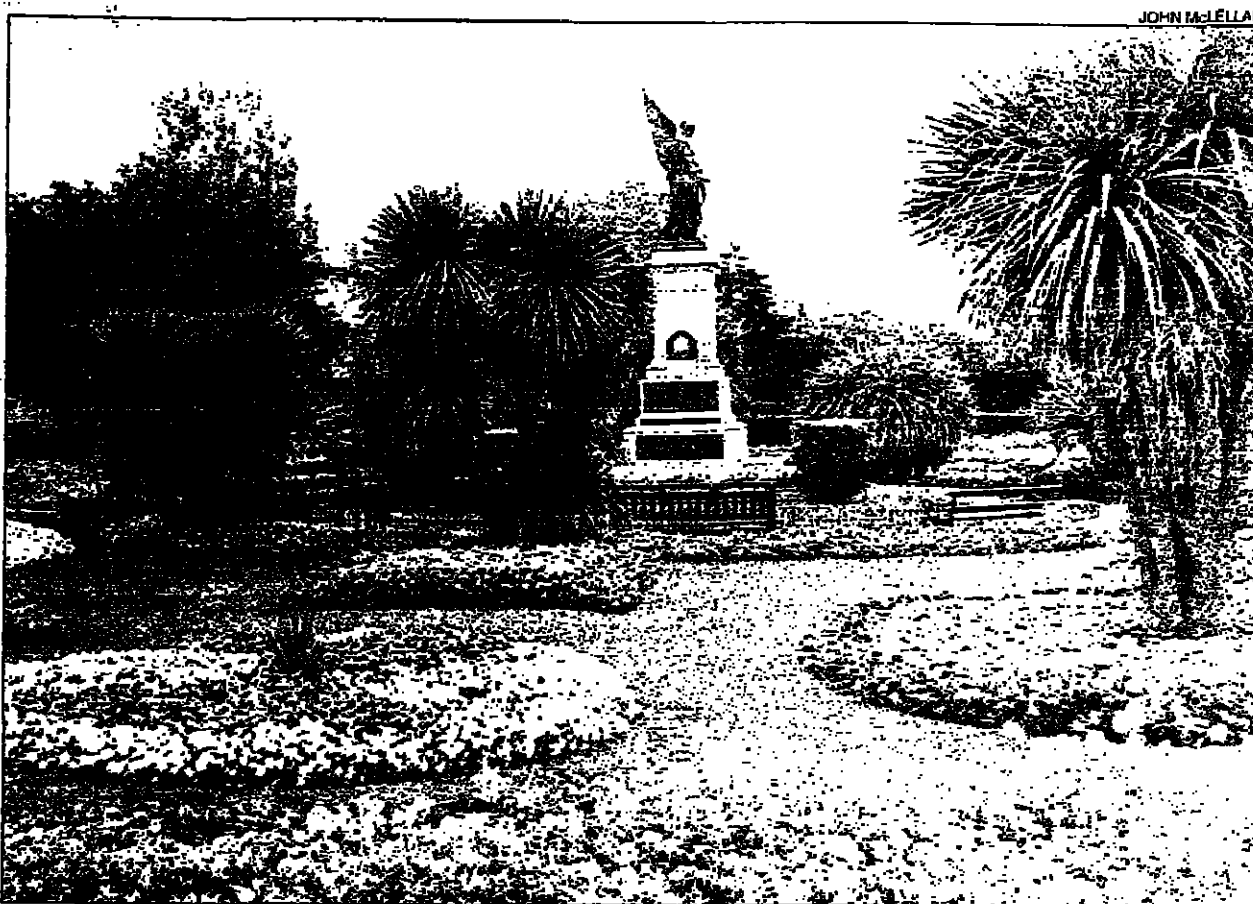
were often of a trivial nature: in Alexandra Park in Hastings, park keepers were instructed to control "skipping, leap-frogging and walking on the grass edging". Other parks prohibited shooting, dancing, games of any kind, dog-washing in the lakes and beating carpets.

Speaking at the programme's launch in Sefton Park, Liverpool, Lord Rothschild, the fund's chairman, said: "Our policy has been to concentrate on bringing back care, peace and security to parks. We have issued a challenge to the new Government to accept parks as a national responsibility. Free access to well-maintained parks should again become part of the birthright of the people of this country."

The Public Parks Movement began in the early 19th century in the industrial towns of the North. Liverpool's Birkenhead Park, laid out by Sir Joseph Paxton from 1843 to 1847, inspired New York's Central Park. The 1875 Public Health Act allowed councils to buy and maintain parks. Before that each new park had required an Act of Parliament.

Clacton-on-Sea's promenade gardens, Venetian footbridge and model boating pond are to be renovated with a £416,000 grant from the fund. At Buxton Spa in Derbyshire, a £3.3 million grant will fund work on lakes, bridges and buildings. In London £1 million will go towards the restoration of Emslie Horniman Park in North Kensington, designed by the Arts and Crafts architect C. F. A. Voysey. In Liverpool, a grant will fund the restoration of the Palm House. In Sunderland's Mowbray Park, £2.79 million will go towards the replacement of missing railings, the handstand and the restoration of a cast-iron bridge.

Leading article, page 21



A riot of colour and history, the seafront gardens in Clacton are to be restored with a £416,000 grant

Grant gives promise of new life for seafront sanctuary that time forgot

THE seafront at Clacton is not the most elegant of vistas, yet between Lee's Tattoo and Body Piercing Studio and Tubby Isaacs' Wheelk Stall lies a haven preserved from a more genteel age of holidaymaking. Since the turn of the century the memorial gardens, to be renovated with a £416,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, have been a retreat where old men in flat caps rest weary legs and where daytrippers scoff fish and chips in shelters unchanged from the Edwardian era.

The style and choice of planting, with roses, pansies and wallflowers in geometrical beds, might be most kindly described as municipal, but planning officials in the Essex town know of no other seafront garden that has survived so long with so little change. "We found we were in possession of a little gem," Roger Stewart, director of planning for Tendring District Council, said.

Some updating is planned, nevertheless. One of the less imposing corners of the garden, which runs in a quarter-mile strip along the



An Edwardian family enjoys the pleasures of a park

diplo overlooking Clacton Pier, will become a Mediterranean garden, a nod towards the increasing incidence of drought. There will also be a sensory garden, with heavily scented plants and braille signposting for the blind.

The boating pond has long been disused and presents a sad picture but will be restored to its original use. A Venetian-style footbridge, which links the garden to what planners refer to as "the

active leisure area" — takeaways and amusement arcades — will be renovated.

Thomas Cromwell, a lottery fund official, said: "Work will begin at the end of the season so the public can enjoy the full benefit next year."

That the gardens are there at all is a fair stroke of luck. During the Second World War Clacton was regarded as a prime invasion site and its shore bristled with pillboxes, gun emplacements and anti-

tank concrete. The gardens escaped with no more than an infestation of barbed wire.

The town was the creation of Peter Bruff, a railway entrepreneur who extended the line from Colchester to what was an empty coastline. He built the pier and Royal Hotel, bought the land for the gardens — although it was kept open greensward for years — and by 1871 the place was up and running.

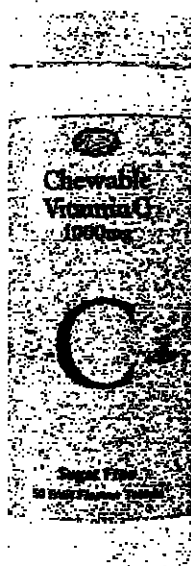
The following year *The Times* took a generous view of the resort: "Being an entirely new creation, none of the evils inseparable from old watering-places will be allowed to exist in it."

Today about 2.5 million people a year visit the seafront. Since Butlins decamped 15 years ago, the resort has been trying to give itself fresh appeal. New parking lots have been built for the daytrippers' coaches and the privately owned pier is undergoing a slow restoration.

The renovated gardens will add a much-needed touch of class. Clacton hopes it will no longer look like a seaside town that has missed the boat.

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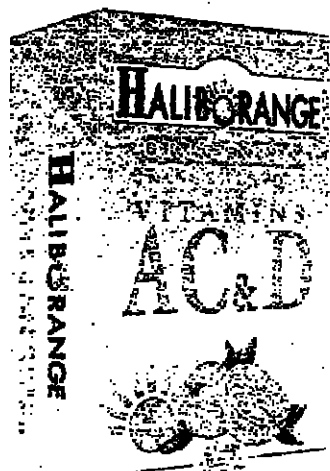
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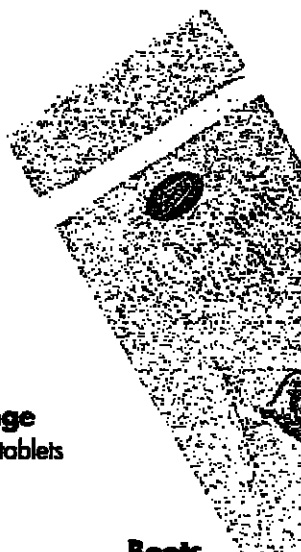
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Net provides fresh fish — and recipes

By a Staff Reporter

IN SPITE of unsettled weather on the west coast, which has affected some landings, there is a reasonable selection of good-quality fish and shellfish to be found this week.

Haddock, at £2.80 a lb, is an excellent choice although cod, at £1.50 a lb, is more economical but delicious in fish burgers, chowder, kebabs or even omelettes.

Sainsbury's has made shopping easier for the PC owner by launching an online recipe service on the Internet at <http://www.sainsbury.co.uk>

Advertised promotions include:

Asda: topside/silverside joint £4.38 a kg, 160 tea bags for £1.49, McVitie's Hob Nobs 300g for 57p, Mr Men Ice Lollies ten-pack for £1.49.

Co-op (CVS): fresh pork spare rib chops £2.84 a kg, Jersey Royal new potatoes 29p a lb, turkey breast 79p a qtr, vintage white cheddar £5.29 a kg, four 125g whole milk children's yogurt for 75p.

Harrods: Australian smoked kangaroo £4.99 for 100g, New Zealand smoked venison sausages £2.39 for 100g, Middle Eastern salad with tahini 79p for 100g, chicken Kiev at £3.49 each.

Iceland: seafood selection 400g for £2.49, whole beans 907g for 74p, four steak and kidney puddings for £1.49, honey roast ham 227g for £1.39, 283g roast chicken legs for £1.19.

Kwik Save: Robinson's lemon barley 750ml for 93p, Birds Eye chicken curry and rice 375g for £1.09, Birds Eye

WEEKEND SHOPPING

beef burgers, pack of 12, for £1.89.

Marks & Spencer: mini chicken tikka fillets £2.49, reduced-fat coronation chicken £1.99, four cod fishcakes for £1.49, basted turkey joint £2.99, apricot roll for 79p.

Morrisons: frying steak £1.89 a lb, canteloupe melon 99p, apple pie 530g for 99p, salmon fillet £2.50 a lb, herb and garlic bread 49p, mini Melton pork pies 19p each.

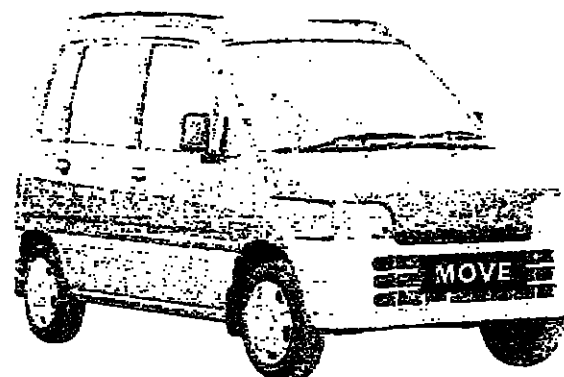
Sainsbury's: New Zealand lamb whole leg bone £5.79 for 1kg, six portions of Sainsbury's breaded cod £2.49, 500ml carrot and coriander soup 79p, 800g Hovis wholemeal bread 59p, Sainsbury's French brie £4.99 for 1kg.

Somerfield: potato and chive salad 250g for 59p, Prince's pink salmon 213g for 39p, cooked ham 20 slices for 94p, 315g thin and crispy ham and mushroom pizza for 99p, red pearl vine tomatoes 230g for 99p.

Tesco: plaice fillet £2.99 a lb, rainbow trout £1.87 a lb, cooked and peeled prawns 99p for 4oz, English asparagus 250g bundle for £1.89, carrots 19p a lb, onions 22p a lb.

Waitrose: blueberries 125g for £1.49, baby spinach £1.29 a lb, green peppers 99p a lb, 2.5kg fresh chicken for £5.89, six Toulouse sausages 400g for 99p, chopped dates and walnuts 250g for 89p, greek honey 454g for 99p, Florida pink grapefruit juice, 1 litre for 79p.

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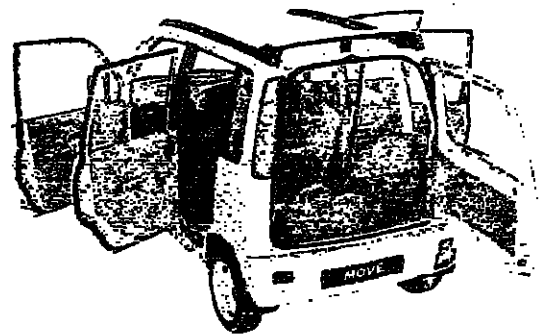
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Michael Foale leaves crew quarters for the launching pad at Cape Canaveral

Shuttle blasts off for Mir link-up

BY ANJANA AHUJA AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE space shuttle *Atlantis*, aiding for a rendezvous with the Russian space station *Mir*, blasted off from Cape Canaveral, Florida in a brilliant blast of light and smoke yesterday. The \$2 billion (£1.2 billion) reusable spaceship carried a British astronaut Michael Foale, mission 28, and a former

helicopter pilot born in Peru, a Frenchman, an American of Chinese descent, and a Russian woman cosmonaut.

"We're on our way," Charles Precourt, the shuttle commander, exclaimed in Russian moments after the shuttle leapt off its launch pad. His words echoed those used by Yuri Gagarin at his historic blast-off in 1961. Daniel

Goldin, the Nasa administrator, and Russian space officials toasted the spectacular blast-off with vodka.

Atlantis completed its fiery climb to orbit in less than nine minutes. The shuttle's bright engines were still visible to observers at the launch site when it was more than 480 miles out. The *Mir* space station was soaring high

above the Indian Ocean west of Australia when the shuttle blasted off and its crew was unable to see the launch. But Vasily Tsibliev, *Mir*'s Russian commander, reported seeing the shuttle's brightly lit launch pad through binoculars as the station later passed overhead.

Atlantis will dock with *Mir* early tomorrow and will remain docked for up to six

days. Dr Foale, a former Cambridge University astrophysicist, will swap places with Jerry Linenger, who will have been marooned on *Mir* for 132 days.

The mission is regarded as a crucial one. An oxygen generator on *Mir* caught fire in February, and several systems have not been operating as they should. There is only a

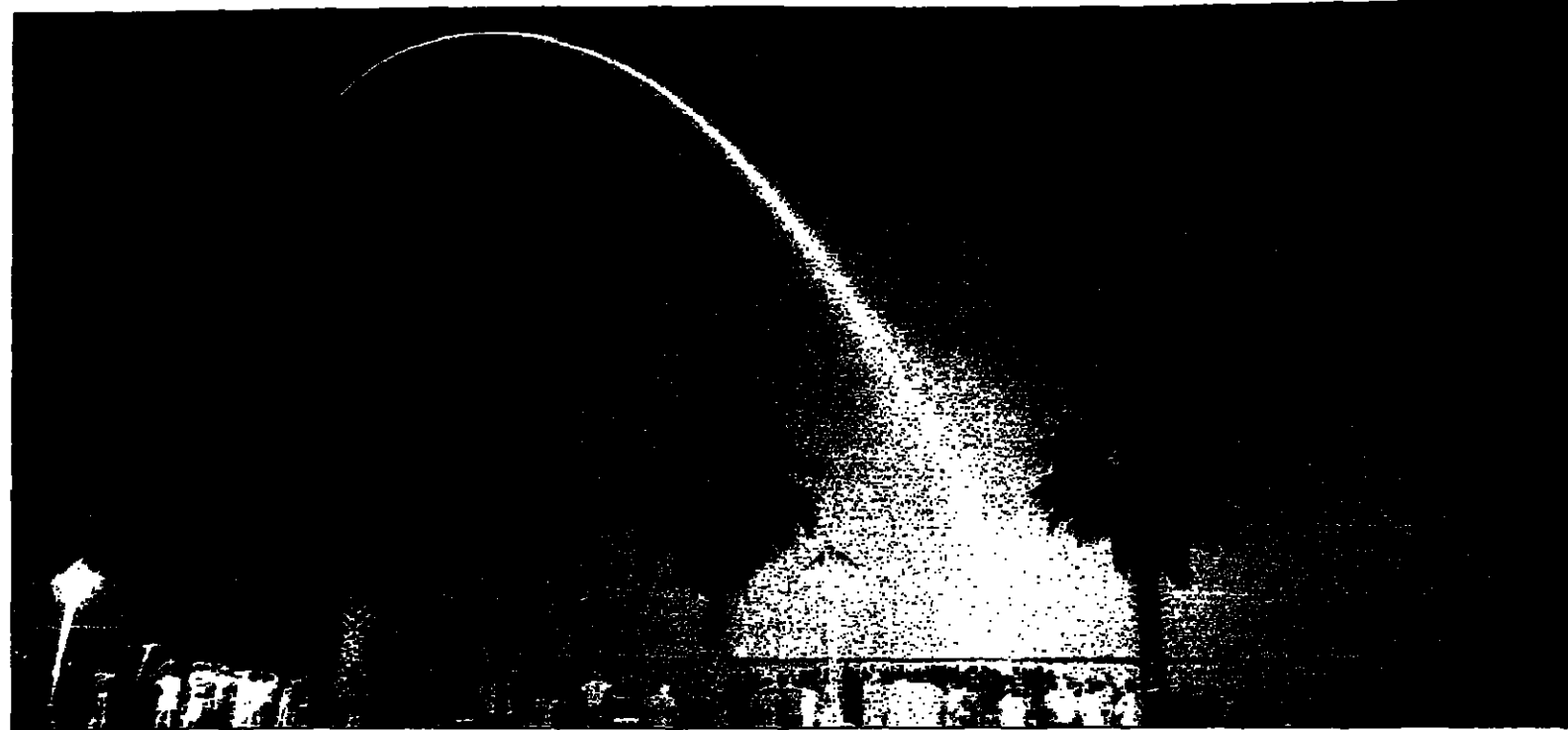
two-month supply of drinking water left. Normally, astronauts would be able to drink recycled atmospheric condensation, but a contaminant has leaked into the atmosphere from coolant loops.

For this reason, *Atlantis* is ferrying a record 3,700lb cargo to the ailing Russian outpost, including water, a new oxygen generator, and repair kits for

Mir's cooling system. In return, *Atlantis* will remove spent hardware, several science experiments and the large carcass of the failed oxygen generator.

Despite the problems, science will remain a top priority. Dr Foale has plans for more than 30 experiments in fields as diverse as crystal growth, human life sciences, Earth

observation and engineering. It is the sixth docking of a space shuttle with *Mir* — a dress rehearsal for the international space station due for launch in 1999. The astronauts are expected to be assigned a schedule of 40-hour weekends, eight annual holidays and a family get-together via satellite every Sunday.

The space shuttle *Atlantis* streaks into the early-morning sky after a perfect launch from the Kennedy Space Centre

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Chirac gets warm welcome from grateful Beijing

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

CHINA rolled out the red carpet to welcome President Chirac yesterday as he arrived in Beijing for a controversial four-day state visit during which he intends to build a comprehensive partnership with China.

His trip coincided with the signing of a \$1.8 billion (£1.1 billion) Airbus deal to supply 30 aircraft to Chinese airlines.

President Jiang Zemin warmly greeted M Chirac and praised him for opposing moves to censure China for its human rights abuses.

M Chirac's visit, the first official visit by a French President in 14 years, comes just weeks after Paris refused to back a United Nations resolution condemning China. France argued that it "preferred dialogue to confrontation" and that amicable discussion with the Chinese is a more effective way of promoting human rights.

Yesterday Mr Jiang welcomed the French stance as a "wise decision". The Chinese leader broached the delicate subject during a private meeting with M Chirac.

The two leaders will meet again today and are due to sign a joint political declaration, the aim of which is to establish "a comprehensive partnership" between the two

countries. Hervé de Charette, the French Foreign Minister accompanying M Chirac, is due to raise individual human rights cases today.

Yesterday, in almost two hours of talks, M Chirac and Mr Jiang appeared to find common ground on their opposition to America's superpower role. "Both sides ... are opposed to any attempt to dominate [international affairs]," a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said in a criticism of Washington.

France, however, is unhappy that improved relations have not translated into economic advantages for French industry in Asia's largest marketplace. "France does not fully have the place it deserves here," M Chirac told French businessmen at the French Ambassador's residence. This is a situation he said he intended to rectify.

M Chirac's visit, however, came under attack from Glenys Kinnock, the Labour Euro MP. Recalling the killing of pro-democracy supporters in Tiananmen Square, she said: "Chirac's trip will ruin the efforts of everyone who has worked to defend human rights in China."

Airbus order, page 32

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Mandela mission doomed by Zaire's devious diplomacy

FROM SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT, IN JOHANNESBURG

WITH the Zaire peace talks threatened with collapse and the prospect of violence in Kinshasa, President Mandela of South Africa last night moved into the breach with a last-ditch meeting.

The talks in Cape Town with Laurent Kabila, Zaire's rebel leader, appeared doomed, however, because Mr Mandela's view is more Western than African.

Mr Mandela's inability to see that Zaire's immediate history has a momentum he cannot stop, or even steer, is largely derived from his high moral standards and the success of the negotiated transition from apartheid to democracy in his homeland.

Shielded from the uglier realities of African politics during his 27 years in jail, Mr Mandela cultivated a sense of reason and moral courage lacking in leaders on the rest of the continent where logic, ethics and plain good sense are concepts which raise little enthusiasm and which observers greet with sniggers.

His refusal to believe that President Abacha of Nigeria would go ahead with the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and his Ogoni colleagues in 1995 meant that he refused, until the men were dead, to turn his moral beacon on the Abuja junta.

Ordinary Africans were stunned. First, that he was reluctant to use his influence as Africa's most popular President to save lives. And later, that he could have been so naive as to think that a military dictatorship would

not carry out "judicial murders".

Opposition groups throughout Africa had been looking to Mr Mandela to lead calls for "good governance" on a continent blighted by murderous and thieving regimes. But in the years after the executions in Nigeria, Mr Mandela has been more comfortable in Western environments where rational debate is possible.

Mr Mandela's South Africa experience has also served him ill in trying to persuade President Mobutu to cede power to Mr Kabila without a fight. After two years of talks on the transition of power in South Africa, carried out in a reasonable and sometimes affable atmosphere, many of the African National Congress and National Party representatives

natives emerged from the World Trade Centre firm and lasting friends.

In Zaire, as in much of Africa, such things are not possible. Though he is Africa's most celebrated son, Mr Mandela understands little of the cultures north of the Limpopo. Ways of doing things in the heart of Africa are not "primitive", just different.

Many ethnic groups have no indigenous words for "please" or "thank you". Others, like the Masai, lie as a matter of pride and consider direct questioning downright rude. Rwandans talk in riddles to avoid revealing themselves (a sensible precaution in the Hun-Tutsi horror). No one blushes when untruths are exposed. Mr Mandela was understandably angry when Mr Kabila failed to turn up for a scheduled meeting with Mr Mobutu on Wednesday.

The day before, Thabo Mbeki, Mr Mandela's Vice-President, had been assured by the rebel leader that he would attend the talks. The South African and United Nations negotiators did not stop to ask themselves: "Why is he saying this? Does he mean it?" Given that he has fought against Mr Mobutu's regime for the last 32 years, that he controls all of Zaire bar Kinshasa, and that his troops are closing on the gates of the city, Mr Kabila is likely to say anything anyone wants. That is because he is intent on only one thing: driving out Mr Mobutu and taking power.

Leading article, page 23

Hunt for lost funds widens

Geneva: The search for billions of dollars allegedly embezzled by President Mobutu of Zaire is set to widen, after members of Laurent Kabila's Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire vowed yesterday to present formal requests for judicial help in several European countries and in the United States (Peter Capella writes). The intricate financial network, alleged to involve about £2.5 billion, is reported to extend as far as Japan.

Mood of defeat grips Kinshasa

FROM DAVID ORR IN KINSHASA

THE mood in the Zairean capital was sombre yesterday when President Mobutu returned home from Congo after Wednesday's collapse of peace talks described as the last chance to avert a rebel onslaught on Kinshasa.

With Laurent Kabila's rebel forces reportedly 50 miles from Kinshasa airport, office

workers left for home early yesterday. Rebel tracts circulating in the city tell residents to stay at home and prepare for liberation. Better-off residents continued to flee across the Congo river to Brazzaville, while peasants near the airport were leaving home to escape the rebel offensive.

The latest communiqué of Mr Kabila's rebel forces said they would reach Kinshasa by the weekend.

Yesterday groups of bedraggled Zairean Army deserters shuffled through the capital under escort. The men, who had left their posts in the interior, were accompanied by family members.

The city's port, Ngoliba, was closed yesterday after the fall two days ago of Mbandaka, the last big town on the Congo River before Kinshasa. With rebels in control, commercial river traffic has come to a halt.

Feud over monarchy resurfaces in Greece

FROM JOHN CARR IN ATHENS

A STRONG pro-royalist faction in New Democracy, the Greek opposition conservative party, has become restive after a war of words between the party founder and erstwhile president, Constantine Karamanlis, and the former King Constantine II, who is in exile in London.

Publication this week of a 12-volume personal archive by Mr Karamanlis — in which the crusty architect of Greece's membership of the European Union and restorer of democratic rule passes judgment on leading politicians — has set the cat among the parliamentary pigeons. Athens bookshops reported a brisk trade in the archive, probably the most exhaustive documentation of modern Greek history this century.

Passages leaked before publication indicate that the former King was plotting a coup to restore himself to the throne in 1975, the year after Mr Karamanlis restored democracy after the colonels' regime and held a plebiscite in which two-thirds of Greeks voted to have a republic. The former King has denied the story, claiming that Mr Karamanlis himself urged a coup from his own exile in 1960.

The dispute has revived a 30-year vendetta between Mr Karamanlis and the ex-monarch. Supporters of the former King distributed leaflets calling Mr Karamanlis a "traitor" during the official launch of the archive on Wednesday.

Mr Karamanlis, 90, was not present. The organisers said he was incapacitated with lumbago. Last week he had made his first public statement after stepping down from the presidency in 1995, capping a 60-year career in politics, by warning royalist sympathisers that the issue of the monarchy was "finished, once and for all".

New Democracy is believed to have between 30 and 50 royalist parliamentary deputies among its 111 MPs. Their opposition to Mr Karamanlis's republican tradition is so great they have even expressed guarded sympathy for Costas Simitis, the Socialist Prime Minister.

Updated design eases burden for rickshaw wallah

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

FOR the first time since its arrival in India, the cycle rickshaw is getting a facelift. A lighter, sleeker model will ease the strain on an army of skinny men performing one of the land's meanest jobs.

The revamp involved designers from an Indian bicycle company and officials of the Department of Science and Technology. The result, after seven years' work, is the "ecotrike". Passengers will now face backwards, away from the rickshaw-wallah — usually an illiterate, low-caste villager seeking survival in the city — to redistribute the weight more efficiently.

The new rickshaw comes with a canopy for the pullers, 75,000 of whom operate in Delhi alone, mostly in the crowded back streets of the old quarter. There is no fixed fare: the puller extracts what he can, often after heated argument. A journey of about a mile is likely to cost about 5p. It is hard to earn a pound a day after paying rent to the rickshaw owner.

A special rickshaw will be introduced for hauling schoolchildren, with hooks for school bags and wire mesh to stop children falling out. Pullers who specialise in carrying children to and from school have the toughest job: six children can cram into a cage welded on the back of a tricycle.

Vegetable-sellers, too, will get their own new version of rickshaw. Specialised garbage rickshaws have made an appearance in some areas of the city, paid for by private citizens frustrated by the rare appearance of dustmen from

Delhi Corporation. The rickshaw reached India from Japan in the 1930s and has hardly changed shape since. The frames are black and heavy, the wheels large and fat, and there are no gears. The new models, soon to be on sale nationwide, have gears, brightly coloured lightweight frames and stylish handlebars.

Rickshaws once had a bad name in India because they slow down traffic and clog roads, and there have been threats to ban them. But they are now seen as a vital source of employment as well as a cheap, pollution-free form of transport. Car owners often find it quicker to take short journeys by rickshaw.

Rickshaws are common throughout South Asia, but the regional rickshaw capital is Bangladesh, where rickshaws have a bigger cash turnover than Bangladesh Railways or Bangladesh Biman, the national airline. They account for more than half the vehicles in Dhaka, the capital. Rickshaw-related work is the biggest source of employment in Dhaka, accounting for nearly a quarter of the workforce. The rickshaws are intricately decorated, providing jobs to specialised artists skilled in painting film stars or religious images.

But many Bangladeshis hate rickshaws. They are seen as symbols of backwardness and criticised as inhuman and degrading to the pullers, who often turn to begging when they become too frail — usually in their forties — for such work.



The old-style rickshaws of South Asia, criticised as demeaning, ensure pollution-free transport

Netanyahu is granted relief on sleaze

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE taint of sleaze, which has handicapped the right-wing Israeli Government of Benjamin Netanyahu, was partly lifted yesterday when his original Justice Minister was acquitted by a Tel Aviv court of perjury and obstructing justice.

The unanimous verdict came less than a month after Elyakim Rubinstein, the Attorney-General, decided there was insufficient evidence to comply with police

recommendations to charge Mr Netanyahu in a separate political corruption case. Yaacov Neeman, the man cleared yesterday to courtroom cheers, served two months as Justice Minister before resigning after a journalist petitioned the High Court against his appointment and the police launched an investigation.

Mr Neeman, a political independent, was subsequently charged with giving false evidence in a fraud trial involving Aryeh Deri, leader of the ultra-Orthodox

Shas party, and of encouraging a prosecution witness to give false evidence.

The minister, whose resignation was the first in a series of internal problems for the Netanyahu administration, allegedly told the Supreme Court he was not involved in the trial of Mr Deri, a former Interior Minister, when he had been a lawyer acting for him. The court found yesterday that Mr Neeman had made a mistake, and not lied. Mr Netanyahu said he had not decided whether Mr Neeman would return to his Cabinet post.

Pasta, polenta and perfectionism

Success promises to be more than a flash in the pan for *The River Café Cook Book*; the sequel has gone straight to the top of the bestseller list, says Jason Cowley



Style gurus Ruth and Richard Rogers

The *New Yorker* magazine thinks that they run the best Italian restaurant in Europe; their first book, *The River Café Cook Book*, is a trend-setting bestseller; its sequel this week entered the bestseller list at number one; and many leading supermarkets are selling cavolo nero and other exotic vegetables to satisfy demand for the ingredients they use in their recipes. Clearly, the American-born Ruth Rogers and her friend Rose Gray are exerting the kind of influence over culinary culture that may soon see them as the nation's favourite cooks, supplanting even Delia Smith.

Their power base is the River Café, the celebrated Hammersmith restaurant that Ruth and Rose founded almost a decade ago. They are the inspiration behind a highly fashionable style, the *cucina rustica*, or farmhouse-cooking, of northern Italy, and the tad for char-grilling and wood-roasting that is sweeping Middle England. Their cuisine has a rustic simplicity: pasta, polenta and risotto dishes, soups, grilled or roasted meats and fish, lots of olive oil and fresh herbs, simply prepared vegetables.

"What I like about their food," says *The Times* restaurant critic Jonathan Meades, "is that they have created, out of the idea of something Italian, something as novel and inspired as [Ruth's husband] Richard Rogers's architecture. Everything is cooked simply, perfectly and without fuss. The secret is not that they use exotic ingredients but that they use incredibly good ones."

Ruth (Ruthie to her friends) owes her success more to serendipity than any



Trendsetter: simplicity is the key to Ruth's success. With her friend Rose Gray, she is cooking up a storm at the River Café, which has been hailed as "the best Italian restaurant in Europe"

assiduous career-mapping. She has no formal training as a chef (something she shares with Rose) and originally wanted to be a civil rights lawyer, but when she arrived in London she enjoyed life so much that her career changed direction. The River Café began, too, not as a grand Conran-style concept eatery, but as the in-house canteen of the Richard Rogers Partnership, with which it shares a converted warehouse complex on the north bank of the Thames.

The restaurant is run on resolutely "domestic" terms: the menu is changed twice a day, depending on the availability of ingredients; and there is a restricted choice of dishes and only one evening sitting. The focus of its glass and chrome interior is an Italian wood-burning oven.

Like many surprise bestsellers, *The River Café Cookbook* had a troubled history. Twice stillborn after publishers were frustrated by what friends call "Ruthie and Rose's perfectionism," it almost never made it to press. Ruth is a

meticulous stylist; she and Rose pass every page proof themselves. They are uncompromising in the pursuit of their vision.

"The first deal we made was with Penguin," recalls Ruth's literary agent, Ed Victor. "The problem was that they kept trying to impose their views on Ruthie, fighting everything she wanted. So we bought ourselves out of the contract." The pattern was repeated at Macmillan. "Fortunately, it was third time lucky at Ebury Press."

There has always been a trait of stubbornness in Ruth's character. She grew up in upstate New York, where her father was a radiologist, her mother a teacher. She shared their progressive beliefs but not their fondness for small-town America. Like her husband, she believes that cities are the greatest sources of creativity and that the real heart of London is the

'Everything is cooked simply and perfectly, without any fuss'

Thames. "It would be nice if this place [the Thames-side River Café] could be a model for something," she told *The New Yorker*. "I would love it if more places like this opened on the river."

She moved to London in 1967 after failing to complete her studies at Bennington girls' college in Vermont. Submerging herself in radical politics, she assisted draft dodgers with their campaign against the Vietnam War. A mutual friend introduced her to Richard Rogers, through whom she also met Gray.

As a couple, Ruthie and Richard had great style, even though they had no money," recalls David Pelham, for whom Ruth worked as a graphic designer at Penguin Books in the early Seventies. "I remember on the day Ruthie got her first pay cheque from Penguin, she hired a taxi and went to Harrods and to Fortnum's."

The taxi waited for her while she bought all this expensive food. Then she went back to her small, stark, minimalist flat in north London and cooked the most fabulous dinner for her friends. She must have blown her wages in one hit."

Even Sir Isaiah Berlin has described her as "that excellent Lady Rogers". She and Richard married on Long Island, New York, in 1973; their first child, Roo, was born two years later. A second son, Bo, was adopted in 1983, after Ruthie discovered that she could not have more children. Home is a grand, five-storey Victorian snooty terrace in Chelsea. "It is a home dedicated to style and ping-pong," says Meades.

After Richard Rogers moved to Paris to work on his career-transforming design of the Pompidou Centre, David Pelham would visit the couple in their cramped flat in the Marais district of the city. They were living life at such pace," he says.

"You never knew where you were going to eat or where they were going to take you. And Ruthie was really getting into her cooking, experimenting on a limited budget. On one occasion she did fish on fennel stalks. I'd never seen that before."

Television producer Philippa Walker, a close friend and partner of BBC executive Alan Yentob, speaks of Ruth's energy (she recently skied down Mount Blanc), political radicalism (they marched together through London in support of the miners) and kindness. "I remember when I was in hospital after having my first child and I was completely sick of the food. Ruthie had a River Café meal delivered to my bed. I loved that."

"She's good with customers, too. The last time I was in the restaurant there were these people who found fault with everything. Instead of ducking out of the situation, Ruthie pulled up a chair and charmed the pants off them. They made a return booking as they left."

● *River Café Cook Book Two* (Ebury Press, £25)

A 30. Rachel Jennings is the picture of contentment as she coos over her six-month-old son, Joe. She and her friends are discussing baby food when the phone rings. "Yes, yes. Really? I'd love to, thanks. When?" Silence. A sigh. "Oh, dear. No, I can't. It's too short notice. I'm so sorry..."

She has just turned down a lucrative marketing project, the third job offer this week. Ten years ago she graduated in European business studies. She assumed she could have a career and children. At 23 she was a highly successful marketing manager. "I had huge aspirations and believed I would be some sort of marketing guru by the age of 35. But you can never contemplate how your life will change when you have a baby. Joe comes first now."

It seems her view is widely shared. Catherine Hakim, a sociologist at the London School of Economics, has carried out controversial re-

The women who prefer the playroom to the boardroom

New research claims that most women put home before career. Nicola Carslaw reports

search which seems to demonstrate that the majority of women do not want to reach the top. She claims that most men are far more driven to chase power, status and money than most women. "That is not to say there are not some very driven women, such as Margaret Thatcher. But having children gives most women a feeling of tremendous achievement in life, so they don't feel the need to succeed in other ways."

But how does that square with research published earlier this year which appeared to confirm that most women want to work? Catherine Hakim's figures reveal that three quarters of professional women deny that home comes

first. She believes their replies are distorted by our climate of political correctness. "It isn't socially acceptable to say that your job is not the centre of your life."

First Data Resources is a high-tech operation in Basildon, Essex, which processes credit card payments and employs 2,000 people, mostly women. Its operations director is 57-year-old Jo Emery, a mother whose policies for women's career development won her company an award

this year from Opportunity 2000, the campaign for greater equality in the workplace. Ms Emery acknowledges that, even for high-flyers like her, family demands take precedence. "There is a time in our lives when the children come first," she says. "But I think, too, that as we get older there is space for our careers."

Some 300 companies have signed up to Opportunity 2000, which promotes measures to help working women such as job-shares and career

breaks. But Catherine Hakim questions whether offering such opportunities is a sensible use of company resources. "If you increase flexibility and part-time work, then the sort of women who get into management will be women who give priority to home and family," she says.

Yet hundreds of companies are pressing ahead with their equal opportunities policies. One of them, NatWest, says the number of women in its senior management has risen from 1 per cent to 7 per cent during the 1990s.

Howard Davies, the deputy governor of the Bank of England, believes that the

workplace is on the verge of a radical change, with more women breaking through the so-called glass ceiling. However, he questions the idea of total equality. "I believe there will be a greater proportion of women who say 'no, it is more fulfilling to spend a greater part of my life on my family.'"

All the same, the days of the male-dominated workforce are over. In five years, women workers will be in the majority. In management, too, they are forecast to fill 40 per cent of jobs by the year 2000. Yet although there are exceptions, at the very top it is still "jobs for the boys". If the research is borne out, that will continue — not because of discrimination or lack of opportunity, but because women will opt out before they reach the boardroom, in favour of staying at home in the playroom.

● Nicola Carslaw is a BBC Social Affairs Correspondent. Her Special Assignment on working mothers is broadcast on Radio 5 Live, Sunday, 11.30am.

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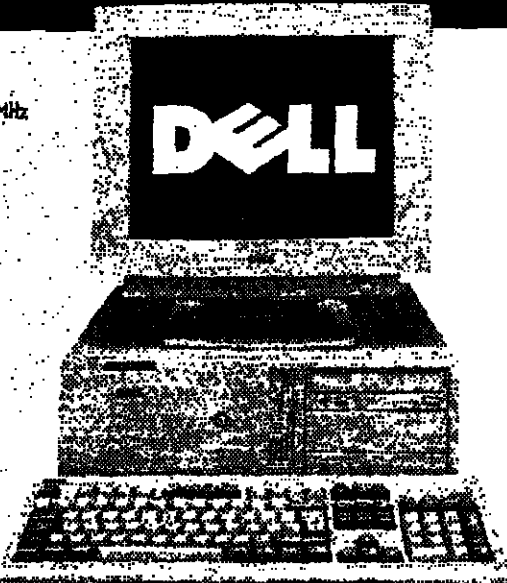
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Devolution show is on the road, says Dewar

By Gillian Bowditch
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Government took the first step yesterday towards fulfilling its promise to set up Scottish and Welsh assemblies with the publication of the referendum Bill.

The Bill outlines the questions that will be put to the voters and the estimated initial costs of devolution. Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, said: "It is a measure of the importance that the Government attaches to devolution that the referendum Bill is the first to be introduced in the new Parliament."

Separate referendums will be held in Scotland and Wales in the autumn in which Scots voters will be asked two questions and Welsh voters one. There will be a three-line whip on Labour MPs, who will be expected to vote for the measures.

Tam Dayell, Labour MP for Llanthony, who has consistently opposed devolution, said he would vote against a

THE QUESTIONS

In Scotland the two questions in the referendum will be:
I do/do not agree that there should be a Scottish parliament
I do/do not agree that a Scottish Parliament should have tax-varying powers

In Wales voters will be asked only one question:
I do/do not agree that there should be a Welsh assembly

Scottish Parliament but for tax-raising powers.

Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary, said: "I do not believe it is appropriate for any Labour Member of Parliament to take any course of action which would include, for example, associating with others in opposition to our campaign or indeed publicly campaigning on their own behalf against our proposals."

The Government estimates that the cost of the referendums will be £5 million (£5 million in Scotland and £3 million in Wales). Mr Dewar said that the cost was about £1 for every adult in Scotland,

prompting the Tories to call it "the most expensive opinion poll in history".

The initial costs of establishing a Scottish parliament are estimated at between £18 million and £25 million, or £5 a head. That covers the purchase of a suitable building, likely to be the Old Royal High School on Calton Hill in Edinburgh, its refurbishment and the administrative costs. Running costs, which have not yet been released, will be additional. The cost of establishing a Welsh assembly is estimated to be between £5 million and £15 million.

Those eligible to vote in the

referendums will have to be resident in Scotland or Wales. A simple majority is all that is needed for the devolution plans to go ahead.

In Scotland the entitlement to vote will be based on the local government electoral register. This will mean that Scotland's 123 peers will be eligible to vote, as will foreign nationals living in Scotland, but expatriate Scots will be excluded.

Mr Dewar spoke of his personal excitement at piloting his first Bill as Secretary of State through the Commons and he promised that it would be done as quickly as possible while allowing for open debate. He said the second reading of the Bill would be on Wednesday and Thursday of next week, adding: "The show is well and truly on the road."

The White Paper will be published before the summer recess to allow time for its proper examination and the referendums will be held on separate days in the autumn before the Labour Party conference in October. September 11 or 18 is the favoured day for the Scottish referendum. The Welsh referendum is likely to be a week later.

Jackson Carlaw, the Scottish Conservative Party deputy chairman, said: "They are asking Scots to sign a blank cheque. The questions set out in this Bill are meaningless. The devil is in the detail and this must be debated and passed through the Westminster Parliament before any referendum could have any credibility."



John Bruton, flanked yesterday by his allies Fionnuala De Ross and Dick Spring, is trailing Mary Harney's Progressive Democrats and her Fianna Fail partners

Stormy outlook as Bruton takes rainbow team to polls

By Audrey Magee
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Irish general election campaign began yesterday amid indications that it will be the most closely contested and bitter of recent years and may result in a hung Parliament.

John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, told the Dail that the election will be in three weeks' time on Friday, June 6. Mary Robinson, the President, dissolved Parliament in the morning and by lunchtime campaigning was

underway. The outgoing three-party coalition Government and the Opposition are desperate rivals to bring Ireland into the 21st century and to reap the benefits of the most affluent period since the foundation of the State in 1922.

Over the past three years, the country has witnessed a spectacular average growth of 7 per cent. Indications are that the economy will continue to grow by 5 per cent a year for ten years. By 2005 the standard of living may exceed Britain's. For the first time, politicians will have the finances to mould the future of Irish society.

Five main parties are standing, with a host of smaller parties and independent candidates. No party can command an overall majority, leaving voters — whose main concerns are tax, unemployment and crime — with a choice of coalition partners.

Mr Bruton and his "rainbow coalition", comprising his party Fine Gael, Labour led by Dick Spring and Fionnuala De

Rossa's Democratic Left, present themselves as a centre-left party trying to build a cohesive and inclusive society. The coalition promises 1,000 new jobs a week and to halve the 11 per cent unemployment figure in the five-year term of government. They promise to cut income tax by 6 per cent for the average earner and offer more effective policing.

But the outgoing Government is trailing badly in the opinion polls, about 11 per cent behind the Opposition coalition of Fianna Fail and the Progressive Democrats. This centre-right partnership offers tax cuts of up to 8 per cent and a clampdown on crime. But splits are showing.

Fianna Fail, the republican party, has greater affiliation with Sinn Féin than any other party in the Irish Parliament. The Progressive Democrats, and particularly their leader, Mary Harney, are virulently opposed to Sinn Féin and will not talk to them unless there is an IRA ceasefire. The differ-



ence may prove hard to contain during the election campaign.

More than 27 million people are entitled to vote, which will be by proportional representation, rendering it difficult to predict the outcome. First preferences account for only about 20 per cent of the Dail seats. The rest of the 166 seats are filled on second preference and transfer votes.

If Mr Bruton's poll strategy works, his will be the first government to be returned to power in an Irish election since 1969. But Ms Harney was confident yesterday that she would be the first woman Deputy Prime Minister of Ireland: "The sun is out this morning and the rainbow will be out in a few weeks."

Leading article, page 23

'Yes' campaign is under way

A £500,000 campaign was launched in Edinburgh yesterday to persuade Scots to vote yes to a Scottish Parliament with tax-raising powers (Gillian Bowditch writes).

Such is the support for the campaign, however, that organisers said one of their fears was that there would be no effective opposition.

Scotland Forward is a

cross-party group independent of the political parties but with links with Labour and the Liberal Democrats and has been welcomed by the Scottish Nationalists. Individuals from the Conservative Party have also expressed an interest in joining. The group plans to raise up to £500,000 for its campaign with a presence in each of

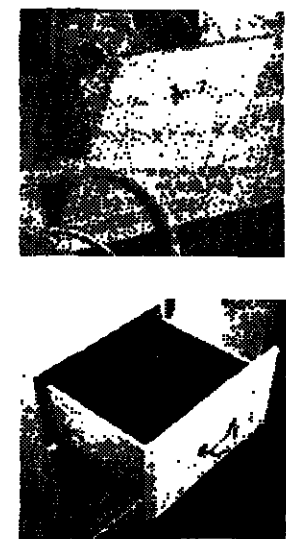
the 73 Scottish constituencies. Nigel Smith, a Scottish businessman and chairman of the organisation, said the group had been planning the campaign for five months. Asked if he was worried about a "no" campaign, he said: "I am worried. I'm worried there won't be one. This debate has to be carried out properly for the sake of democracy."



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GCHQ unions march back

By Valerie Elliott
WHITETAIL EDITOR

STAFF sacked from the Government's communications base, GCHQ, 13 years ago were last night planning a celebratory march back to the Cheltenham premises after the decision to lift a ban on union members.

The ban was imposed by Margaret Thatcher in 1984, claiming that union membership created a conflict of interest with loyalty to the state. Robin Cook, the new Foreign Secretary, gave the go-ahead yesterday union membership

to resume. Civil service unions received calls from staff asking for membership details.

The Public Services, Tax and Commerce Union is to take over the centre's staff federation, and will launch a recruitment drive. The announcement coincided with its annual conference in Blackpool, when four of the sacked workers were paraded on stage to loud cheers. Negotiations will take place shortly about re-instatement and compensation.

The sacked workers — "the GCHQ 14" — were delighted with the news and some were

already planning a return to their old jobs. But one of the most prominent campaigners, Mike Grindley, a former linguist, is 60 in August and due for retirement. He is hopeful his pension rights will be restored.

A list headed "Candidates who deserve the Eurocept vote" (May 1) wrongly included John Thornton, Mr Thornton, a Liberal Democrat MP, as stated, is in fact strongly pro-European. We apologise for the error.

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Mandela mission doomed by Zaire's devious diplomacy

FROM SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT, IN JOHANNESBURG

WITH the Zaire peace talks threatened with collapse and the prospect of violence in Kinshasa, President Mandela of South Africa last night moved into the breach with a last-ditch meeting.

The talks in Cape Town with Laurent Kabila, Zaire's rebel leader, appeared doomed, however, because Mr Mandela's view is more Western than African.

Mr Mandela's inability to see that Zaire's immediate history has a momentum that cannot stop, or even steer, is largely derived from his high moral standards and the success of the negotiated transition from apartheid to democracy in his homeland.

Shielded from the uglier realities of African politics during his 27 years in jail, Mr Mandela cultivated a sense of reason and moral courage lacking in leaders on the rest of the continent where logic, ethics and plain good sense are concepts which raise little enthusiasm and which observers greet with sniggers.

His refusal to believe that President Abacha of Nigeria would go ahead with the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and his Ogoni colleagues in 1995 meant that he refused, until the men were dead, to turn his moral beacon on the Abuja junta.

Ordinary Africans were stunned. First, that he was reluctant to use his influence as Africa's most popular President to save lives. And later, that he could have been so naive as to think that a military dictatorship would

not carry out "judicial murders".

Opposition groups throughout Africa had been looking to Mr Mandela to lead calls for "good governance" on a continent blighted by murderous and thieving regimes. But in the years after the executions in Nigeria, Mr Mandela has been more comfortable in Western environments where rational debate is possible.

Mr Mandela's South Africa experience has also served him ill in trying to persuade President Mobutu to cede power to Mr Kabila without a fight. After two years of talks on the transition of power in South Africa, carried out in a reasonable and sometimes affable atmosphere, many of the African National Conference and National Party representatives

emerged from the World Trade Centre firm and lasting friends.

In Zaire, as in much of Africa, such things are not possible. Though he is Africa's most celebrated son, Mr Mandela understands little of the cultures north of the Limpopo. Ways of doing things in the heart of Africa are not "primitive", just different.

Many ethnic groups have no indigenous words for "please" or "thank you". Others, like the Masai, lie as a matter of pride and consider direct questioning downright rude. Rwandans talk in riddles to avoid revealing themselves (a sensible precaution in the Hutu-Tutsi horror). No one blushes when untruths are exposed. Mr Mandela was understandably angry when Mr Kabila failed to turn up for a scheduled meeting with Mr Mobutu on Wednesday.

The day before, Thabo Mbeki, Mr Mandela's Vice-President, had been assured by the rebel leader that he would attend the talks. The South African and United Nations negotiators did not stop to ask themselves: "Why is he saying this? Does he mean it?" Given that he has fought against Mr Mobutu's regime for the last 32 years, that he controls all of Zaire bar Kinshasa, and that his troops are closing on the gates of the city, Mr Kabila is likely to say anything anyone wants. That is because he is intent on only one thing: driving out Mr Mobutu and taking power.

Leading article, page 23

Hunt for lost funds widens

Geneva: The search for billions of dollars allegedly embezzled by President Mobutu of Zaire is set to widen, after members of Laurent Kabila's Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire vowed yesterday to present formal requests for judicial help in several European countries and in the United States (Peter Capella writes). The intricate financial network, alleged to involve about £25 billion, is reported to extend as far as Japan.

Mood of defeat grips Kinshasa

FROM DAVID ORR
IN KINSHASA

THE mood in the Zairean capital was sombre yesterday when President Mobutu returned home from Congo after Wednesday's collapse of peace talks described as the last chance to avert a rebel onslaught on Kinshasa.

With Laurent Kabila's rebel forces reportedly 50 miles from Kinshasa airport, office

workers left for home early yesterday. Rebel tracts circulating in the city tell residents to stay at home and prepare for liberation. Better-off residents continued to flee across the Congo river to Brazzaville, while peasants near the airport were leaving home to escape the rebel offensive.

The latest communiqué of Mr Kabila's rebel forces said they would reach Kinshasa by the weekend.

Yesterday groups of bedraggled Zairean Army deserters shuffled through the capital under escort. The men, who had left their posts in the interior, were accompanied by family members.

The city's port, Ngolila, was closed yesterday after the fall two days ago of Mbandaka, the last big town on the Congo River before Kinshasa. With rebels in control, commercial river traffic has come to a halt.

Feud over monarchy resurfaces in Greece

FROM JOHN CARR
IN ATHENS

A STRONG pro-royalist faction in New Democracy, the Greek opposition conservative party, has become restive after a war of words between the party founder and erstwhile president, Constantine Karamanlis, and the former King Constantine II, who is in exile in London.

Publication this week of a 12-volume personal archive by Mr Karamanlis — in which the crusty architect of Greece's Union and restorer of democratic rule passes judgment on leading politicians — has set the cat among the parliamentary pigeons. Athens bookshops reported a brisk trade in the archive, probably the most exhaustive documentation of modern Greek history this century.

Passages leaked before publication indicate that the former King was plotting a coup to restore himself to the throne in 1975, the year after Mr Karamanlis restored democracy after the colonels' regime and held a plebiscite in which two-thirds of Greeks voted to have a republic. The former King has denied the story, claiming that Mr Karamanlis himself urged a coup from his own exile in 1966.

The dispute has revived a 30-year vendetta between Mr Karamanlis and the ex-monarch. Supporters of the former King distributed leaflets calling Mr Karamanlis a "traitor" during the official launch of the archive on Wednesday.

Mr Karamanlis, 90, was not present. The organisers said he was incapacitated with lumbago. Last week he had made his first public statement after stepping down from the presidency in 1995, capping a 60-year career in politics, by warning royalist sympathisers that the issue of the monarchy was "finished, once and for all".

New Democracy is believed to have between 30 and 50 royalist parliamentary deputies among its 111 MPs. Their opposition to Mr Karamanlis's republican tradition is so great they have even expressed guarded sympathy for Costas Simitis, the Socialist Prime Minister.

Updated design eases burden for rickshaw wallah

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

FOR the first time since its arrival in India, the cycle rickshaw is getting a facelift. A lighter, sleeker model will ease the strain on an army of skinny men performing one of the land's meanest jobs.

The revamp involved designers from an Indian bicycle company and officials of the Department of Science and Technology. The result, after seven years' work, is the "ecorike". Passengers will now face backwards, away from the rickshaw-wallah — usually an illiterate, low-caste villager seeking survival in the city — to redistribute the weight more efficiently.

The new rickshaw comes with a canopy for the pullers, 75,000 of whom operate in Delhi alone, mostly in the crowded back streets of the old quarter. There is no fixed fare: the puller extracts what he can, often after heated argument. A journey of about a mile is likely to cost about 5p. It is hard to earn a pound a day after paying rent to the rickshaw owner.

A special rickshaw will be introduced for hauling schoolchildren, with hooks for school bags and wire mesh to stop children falling out. Pullers who specialise in carrying children to and from school have the toughest job: six children can cram into a cage welded on the back of a tricycle.

Vegetable-sellers, too, will get their own new version of rickshaw. Specialised garbage rickshaws have made an appearance in some areas of the city, paid for by private citizens frustrated by the rare appearance of dustmen from

Delhi Corporation. The rickshaw reached India from Japan in the 1930s and has hardly changed shape since. The frames are black and heavy, the wheels large and fat, and there are no gears. The new models, soon to be on sale nationwide, have gears, brightly coloured lightweight frames and stylish handlebars.

Rickshaws once had a bad name in India because they slow down traffic and clog roads, and there have been threats to ban them. But they are now seen as a vital source of transport. Car owners often find it quicker to take short journeys by rickshaw.

Rickshaws are common throughout South Asia, but the regional rickshaw capital is Bangladesh, where rickshaws have a bigger cash turnover than Bangladesh Railways or Bangladesh Airlines, the national airline. They account for more than half the vehicles in Dhaka, the capital. Rickshaw-related work is the biggest source of employment in Dhaka, accounting for nearly a quarter of the workforce. The rickshaws are intricately decorated, providing jobs to specialised artists skilled in painting film stars or religious images.

But many Bangladeshis hate rickshaws. They are seen as symbols of backwardness and criticised as inhuman and degrading to the pullers, who often turn to begging when they become too frail — usually in their forties — for such work.



The old-style rickshaws of South Asia, criticised as demeaning, ensure pollution-free transport

Netanyahu is granted relief on sleaze

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM

THE taint of sleaze, which has handicapped the right-wing Israeli Government of Benjamin Netanyahu, was partly lifted yesterday when his original Justice Minister was acquitted by a Tel Aviv court of perjury and obstructing justice.

The unanimous verdict came less than a month after Elyakim Rubinstein, the Attorney-General, decided there was insufficient evidence to comply with police

recommendations to charge Mr Netanyahu in a separate political corruption case. Yaacov Neeman, the man cleared yesterday to courtroom cheers, served two months as Justice Minister before resigning after a journalist petitioned the High Court against his appointment and the police launched an investigation.

Mr Neeman, a political independent, was subsequently charged with giving false evidence in a fraud trial involving Aryeh Deri, leader of the ultra-Orthodox,

Shas party, and of encouraging a prosecution witness to give false evidence.

The minister, whose resignation was the first in a series of internal problems for the Netanyahu administration, allegedly told the Supreme Court he was not involved in the trial of Mr Deri, a former Interior Minister, when he had been a lawyer acting for him. The court found yesterday that Mr Neeman had made a mistake, and not lied. Mr Netanyahu said he had not decided whether Mr Neeman would return to his Cabinet post.

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Philip Howard



Tory fortunes may be rocky, but they do a good horror show

Ann Widdecombe's description of Michael Howard — "There is something of the night about him" — was possibly disloyal, imprudent or bad politics. It may neither hamstring Mr Howard in the Tory leadership contest, nor help the chances of Miss Widdecombe's preferred runner. Along with her aside that nobody in his right mind would suck up with chocolate to a woman of her shape, it confirms that she is a good egg and more than just a pretty face. And her description could have been written by Bram Stoker. That enigmatic little phrase creates the gosemples of agreeable terror of the Gothic horror story.

From the opening scene of *Hamlet* to the umpteenth screen version of *Dracula*, this flesh-creeping genre is one which the British are good at. In it Boris Karloff, that gentle English exile in Hollywood, forever stalks in the memory down secret corridors behind the oak panelling or inside the pyramid, wrapped in rotting ceremonies and making strange noises. And Miss Widdecombe, who was nicknamed Doris Karloff because she was Minister for Prisons at the Home Office, has caught the essence of understatement and mystery to make our flesh creep.

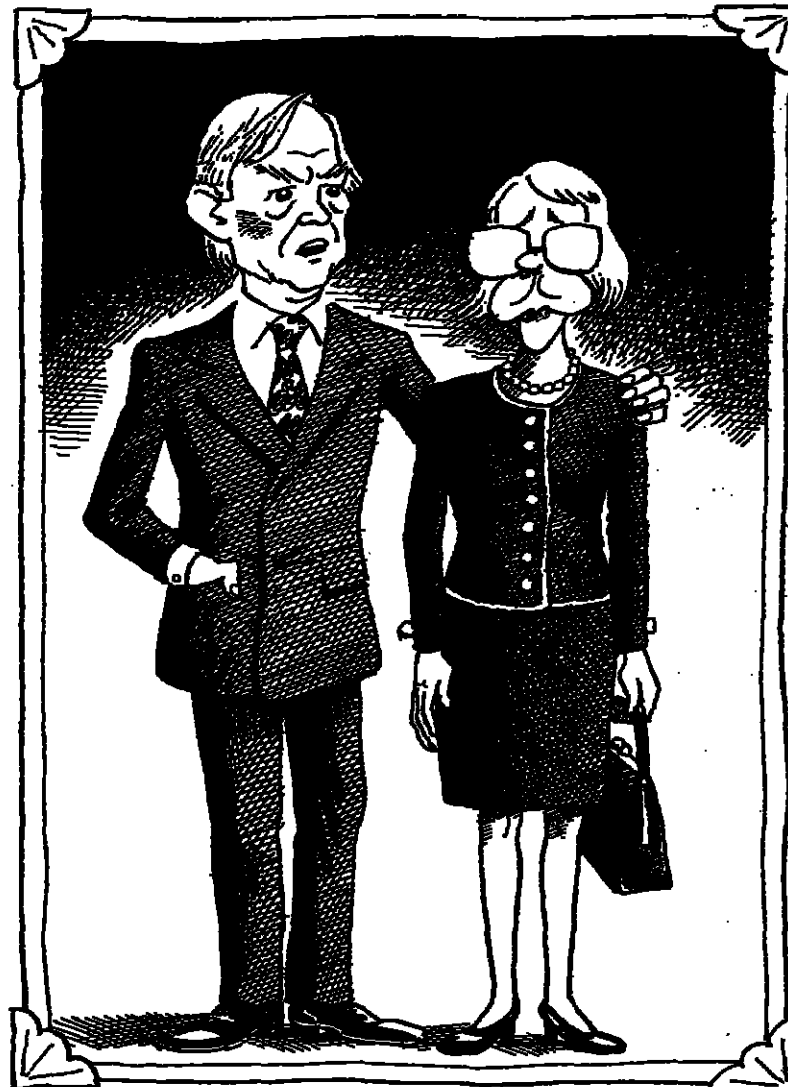
And Mr Howard, who is quick on his feet, makes a boast of the label of Prince of Darkness. He writes in today's *Spectator*: "... if (though I wouldn't have put it like that myself) I am indeed 'dangerous stuff', that may be part of what is required. ... And as the television lights glitter on his prominent spectacles and teeth, a nameless horror thrills the audience. He pronounces 'people' to rhyme with 'ripple' in the style of Prince Vlad of Transylvania, just before he impaled another batch of peasants. With the introduction of something of the night to suggestive readers, it is possible to experience an overpowering sensation of complete and utter ... In a Gothic, here follows a suggestive pause. And before somebody whispers 'evil', in the case of Mr Howard the better answer is 'ruthless ambition'.

A horror story works by terrifying safely, while beyond the comfort of the log-simulating gas-fire, the wolves howl in the Carpathians, or the *Today* studio. The myth of *Dracula* or the *Mummy's* hand is more powerful if it allows evil to remain mysterious. Miss Widdecombe should remember that virtuous action has no more impact on evil than Jonathan Harker's shovel. And the high virtue of Lucy (or Ann) can simply be drained away, as her blood is drained away, until she joins the vampire brood.

The Tories belong to a party that is too old, too professional, and too fond of power to carry on sucking their own blood. And the only way to begin to look like a leader is to become one. The Whig intelligentsia knew that the Tories were finished when they chose that flashy blunderer Disraeli as their leader. But look how they flourished under him. And since they have introduced the Gothic theme, it does seem strangely apt to their leadership race. The original script cast Lord Tebbit as Christopher Lee playing *Dracula* in the shadowy moonlight.

But John Redwood is already known as Vulkan, partly because of that unearthly smile, which seems unconnected from his intellectual musings or his populist rants. He is the wrong sex: otherwise Peter Lilley could be an inhuman computerised model from *The Stepford Wives*, the first women's lib Gothic for which the world had long been waiting. Bill Cash, were he vain enough to run for leader (he is), would play the kind of Dr Crippen specialist one would rather die than consult. In the Gothic, one would die anyway. And William Hague, ever since he made his schoolboy speech to the Tory conference, has always seemed like one of the monstrous, supernaturally intelligent children from John Wyndham's *The Midwich Cuckoos*, filmed as *Village of the Damned*. It would have been better for him if, instead of being hailed by loony prophets as a future leader of their party, he had been clipped around the ear by some rough Yorkshire Tory for being a precocious swot.

In Gothics, the mistiest and most enigmatic parts are the best. When the lights go up, the interest dies. In politics the reverse is true. But so long as the loons are acting Gothic, we outsiders can sit back with a shiver of pleasurable anticipation.



NATURAL PARENTS



SURROGATE

Free the Westminster Two

The real reason for excluding Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness from the Commons is British pig-headedness

Seeking to exclude Sinn Féin MPs from the House of Commons is a mistake. It is hollow, anti-democratic, dishonest and futile. It will prove counter-productive. Pursued by party politicians for nakedly political motives, it ought to be beyond the competence of the Speaker to cover with her cloak. The ban will, however, encounter almost no serious opposition and meet almost everywhere in mainland Britain the empty cheers it met in the Commons this week. One wonders whether there is any point in spitting in the wind of our English mindlessness toward Irish affairs, but here goes ...

The Oath of Allegiance is not the problem, but the pseudo-problem. Sinn Féin MPs' refusal to swear this oath raises a difficulty, of course, but it is one that has been encountered before and overcome when politically convenient. In the early 19th century, the wildly popular Irish nationalist Daniel O'Connell refused to take the Oath of Supremacy, and was ordered by the Speaker to withdraw from the Palace of Westminster. In some ways 1829 was a more tolerant time than 1997, and O'Connell was permitted to address the House from the Bar and explain his actions. His speech impressed, but MPs nevertheless rejected his claim to his seat by 116 votes to 190 and *The Times* published no fewer than 300 leading articles attacking him. The electors of Clare rejected him, unopposed, but before he took his seat the Act of Emancipation was passed, removing the need for Catholics to affirm the Supremacy of the Church of England.

It would be quite wrong to see the rejection of O'Connell as an issue revolving around the swearing of an oath — or, indeed, around the supremacy of the Church of England. It revolved around the political claims of the Irish Catholic nationalists and their demands for Catholic emancipation. These claims were seen as hostile to the British State by many MPs and much of the Government. This was the nub, and the rest is Jesuitical quibbling. *The Times* refused to report his speeches because it disagreed with them.

In 1880, the atheist Charles Bradlaugh's refusal to swear on the Bible raised a similar difficulty, and the Sergeant-at-Arms called the police to expel him from the Chamber as he tried to take his seat. Four times returned by the electors of Northampton and four times refused entry, his unacceptability to the

British political establishment went deeper than his unwillingness to pretend — as countless atheists before him had pretended — to swear an oath. It was his campaigning atheism, his advocacy of birth control, his proposal to allow female journalists to work at Westminster, his general radicalism that really damned him.

In fact Bradlaugh's unwillingness to swear on the Bible was helpful to his persecutors. He did once offer to take the Oath — whereupon the House refused to allow him to do so, and excluded him anyway. The last prisoner to be kept in the jail at the base of the Clock Tower, Bradlaugh won in the end.

Public opinion having moved, he was allowed to affirm instead of swearing on the Bible. All MPs are now offered this option. But the underlying alteration was not of the Oath-taking ceremony, but of the House's view of whom it would accept as a parliamentarian. Bradlaugh was not just a radical but an anti-socialist. Socialism was a new and rising enemy. Against this even the goddess might prove useful allies.

When Gwynfor Evans, the first Plaid Cymru MP, asked whether he might take the Oath in Welsh, the answer was that probably, under existing rules, he could not. But the House realised immediately that what was in question was the participation in our legislature of elected Welsh nationalists, and since most people thought they should participate, the matter was not brought to a head. Mr Evans, with good grace, took the Oath in English, but it was quickly accepted that MPs could do so in either Welsh or English.

When, earlier this week, the new Minister for Sport, Tony Banks, was seen to be crossing his fingers while taking the Oath (Banks is a republican and vehemently opposed to the monarchy), most people just laughed it off. That is because we do not choose to make an issue of this with Mr Banks, who is rather

popular in London. If Jeremy Corbyn, a less charismatic leftie, loathed by the leadership of his party, were to have told the news media that he would hold up crossed fingers for the TV cameras while taking the Oath, and if there were to be a fuss about this at Westminster, he might well have been disbarred.

In short, problems with the Oath have been visible surrogates for submerged problems about the character or affiliations of the elected representative hammering on the door of the Commons. Parliament simply did not want them. The political classes did not want them. In *The Times* did not want them.

In the 1760s, John Wilkes became a popular hero when the Middle-class voters sent him to Westminster and Parliament five times refused to have him — voting that his defeated opponent "ought to have been elected". Edmund Burke was enraged. "The House of Commons can never be a control on other parts of government unless they are controlled themselves by their constituents," he wrote. Electors must "possess some right in the choice of that House which it is not in the power of that House to take away". If MPs overrule them, "they have utterly perverted every other power of the House of Commons".

How little has changed. There are, of course, real problems for an Irish republican with the Commons Oath in its present form. Nor do I deny that, as constitutional conservatives, some sort of declaration of good faith from an intending MP may seem important. But if there were real willingness to include Sinn Féin then it should be possible to seek ways of reconciling those considerations. Who knows? This might uncover a reluctance by Sinn Féin to attend — Oath or no — in which case the party's bluff would have been called.

It might actually uncover (and I suspect it would) a reluctance by

mainland politicians to see Sinn Féin at Westminster, Oath or no. In that case, another bluff would have been called. "Security" has been cited as the reason why supporters of the IRA should never be allowed into the Palace of Westminster. My friends, they are there already. Three thousand people, from kitchen porters, builders, electricians and waiters to researchers, clerks and left-wing Labour MPs, work within the precincts and carry passes.

No, the real reason why the British political class does not wish Sinn Féin to attend the Commons is its stubborn insistence that the 126,000 British electors who voted Sinn Féin on May 1 are stupid or wicked or both, and should be ignored. ("What can be lower than the inhabitants of Billingsgate and Wapping?" asked Charles James Fox, in the Wilkes case.) The electors must be taught that voting for an option unacceptable to London will not make any difference nor do they any good. The voters of West Belfast and Mid Ulster are therefore to be denied any representative at Westminster. Unlike most Conservative or Labour MPs, Gerry Adams received more than half the votes cast in his constituency. Sinn Féin's support in Northern Ireland is about the same as the Liberal Democrats' across Great Britain as a whole, but this counts for nothing. These voters (like the Danes in their first Maastricht referendum) delivered the wrong result. So we block our ears.

The futile strategy behind this ear-blocking is driven by the hope that if the extremists on both sides are steadfastly ignored, then those who incline to "moderation" will gain ground. This is dangerous rubbish. The real centres of gravity in Ulster politics are extreme. John Hume and the forces of moderation in Northern Ireland are a siren distraction. Mr Hume is one of the most dangerous men in Ireland because he is a mirage, the Bishop Muzorewa of Northern Ireland. His embrace — ever tender to British liberals — is ruinous to realistic policy-making.

Only the extremes can deliver. Realism will dawn when the extremes come in from the cold to deal. If a means could be found to exclude the SDLP and the moderate Unionists from the Commons — an Oath of Moderatist Supremacy, perhaps? — then I might, after all, and despite everything I have just written, incline to the use of the Commons Swearing-In ceremony as a political tool.

Matthew Parris

No support

THE last g & t will soon be served at the Conservative Club in Huntingdon. John Major's Cambridgeshire constituency. It is to close due to lack of support. This was where the former PM and his family celebrated the various landmarks in his career with local stalwarts. Now, the only thing as bitter as the angostura are the old members.

"This is a sad day for all of us," says the club's chairman, Roger Juggins. "The club has been a focal part of the community life in Huntingdon and will be greatly missed. We have lost a lot of our older members in recent years and the youngsters are not interested in joining."

Membership at the club had declined below 100, and in 1994 the club was revealed to have debts of £20,000. Despite various attempts to keep it going, the large Victorian building will in three weeks' time cease to be a haven for the local moustaches and blazers.

Juggins has informed the former PM of the closure. How did he take it? "He has far bigger things to worry about at the moment," says Juggins. "We are all disappointed but this is no reflection on Mr Major's popularity."

Laurie Lee will be honoured at his old watering hole, the Chelsea Arts Club. Already on the menu is the 'Laurie Lee Special', a microwave mix of potato, mayonnaise and chicken, best accompanied by a can of Lee's favourite Puryes. There are now plans for a commemorative statue in the garden.

Cole fired

JOHN COLE, the BBC's former political correspondent, has just



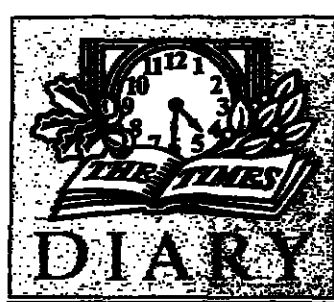
finished his first novel. "There's a lot of philosophy in it and just a bit of politics," he said at the launch of *A Personal History*, a memoir by Katharine Graham, owner of *The Washington Post*, at the Athenaeum club on Wednesday.

"I finished it, but I'm terrified of showing it to anyone. I would like to keep it in a drawer or something and hope that it's found after I die." So, will it be in the Michael Dobbs or Jeffrey Archer genre of political novels? His Ulster accent growing thicker than a bog mist, he growls: "Compare me to those two and you'll get a firm smack."

So much for new Labour informality. For his party last Friday for journalists and Treasury officials, Gordon Brown wanted proper invitations to be sent out. His department suggested that at such short notice perhaps a ring around would be better. Brown, however, was insistent. He wanted thick, creamy embossed cards. So out they went — with no hope of reaching their recipients until days after the party.

In the soup

DESPITE the purgatorial embarrassment of their performance on *Have I Got News For You*, Neil and Christine Hamilton will soon



be back on television in *Can't Stand the Heat*, a Carlton cooking programme. Mrs H will be doing the cooking while her husband looks on gormlessly. "Neil is hopeless," she explains.

Mrs Hamilton's menu has a predictable political theme: Pâté Margarine, named after Baroness Thatcher, made from spinach, anchovies and hard boiled eggs; then an election soup made from beans — inspired, presumably, by all that interminable political wind.

Wat not

I SHOULD have known better than to liken Darius Guppy to Wat Tyler, champion of the Peasants' Revolt. In my piece of March 24, I recounted how Guppy had sued his publisher, Blake Publishing, for being slow in paying the last instalment of the advance

on his book *Roll the Dice*. I now gather that the writ was issued only eleven days after the money was due.

The delay was because on publication day, Blake received a libel threat from an acquaintance of Guppy's. Not surprisingly, Blake was slowish in forking out, as Guppy had agreed to deliver a problem-free manuscript. Respectably, by the time of my piece, Guppy's lawyers had received the missing money — the libel threat having been dealt with — and the only outstanding matter was the question of legal costs and interest, which was why Guppy's lawyers were after Blake's assets. Profuse apologies to Blake Publishing, which still has the film rights to the book.

Brushwork

THERE will be an interlude at the big exhibition of Brazilian art at Thompson's gallery in Dover Street next month — in the shape of Aurora Eastwood, 19, a rising polo star and an outdoor first-year student at Cirencester Agricultural College.

Two of her paintings of polo matches, priced at £200, will hang alongside works by some of Brazil's best-known painters, which could sell for up to £300,000. Among admirers of her work is



Aurora: horseplay

Lord Bath, a close friend and neighbour in Wiltshire, and amateur artist himself.

Miss Eastwood's, however, may well be one of the art world's shorter careers. "I took my easel along to the matches last season," she says, "but I've decided that it's more fun playing than painting."

P-H-S

Mr Straw the social capitalist

John Lloyd finds Labour in tune with an American guru

I went through a red light recently. I was on my bike, it was a quiet Sunday morning and it was at one of those intersections where both sets of lights are set red while pedestrians are urged to cross by small green men. There were no pedestrians.

I pedalled through. A police car shot out of a housing estate and flagged me down. "Do you agree that you went through a red light?" asked the constable. He was Scots, as am I. Thickening an accented accent, I replied: "I agree, but there wasnae anybody about, so ..."

"Let me tell you your rights," he said. "You have the same right as everybody else to stop at a red traffic light. Then he got back into his car and zipped off."

That was, I take it, zero policing. It has been extraordinarily effective. For the past three weeks I have been stopping at every light, even as other cyclists stream through, looking at me (exercising my rights) with scorn.

The incident happened in old Tory Britain. Had it been in new Labour Britain, I would have expected treatment at least as summary — but I would have been aggrieved if the stern caution had not been followed up by a visit from a social worker enquiring if the cause of my crime was not, perhaps, that my life was so stressed and harried that I felt constrained to flout the law.

For this — in less trivial forms, of course — is what new Labour promises. Social order is to be kept not by mere punitive methods, but by punishment allied to remedy. The main remedy is work, or education for work: a large rationale for welfare-to-work measures is that they will cope with rampaging young males. The main features of being "tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime" have been rehearsed explicitly in America, and implicitly and sketchily by the Tories in government. Both, however, put much more emphasis on punishment than Labour yet has.

But the radical thing here is that Labour is doing it. This is the party that has been generally considered, and has considered itself, to be liberal on social and moral issues. When the Conservatives get tough on crime, it is par for the course, but now Labour is proclaiming that it is the working class and the poor themselves who demand protection. It is making clear that there is no practical alternative to discipline and order.

Jack Straw promises that his forthcoming Crime Bill will include rapid sentencing for young offenders, the imposition of criminal responsibility on children over ten, one caution in place of several, and the criminalisation of persistently noisy households. To see this merely in terms of competitive political virility is to miss much of the point. Mr Straw is in the grip of a tidal-wave of juvenile crime, against which he must now erect what barriers he can.

The Government must — to use the American social scientist Francis Fukuyama's phrase — attempt to reconstruct social capital. Fukuyama, who has been giving the Tanner Lectures in Oxford, believes that social capital is what keeps states on the moral rails. Where government is limited and society free, it is essential in retaining both order and civility.

Social capital resides in responsible associations — in families that function decently, in voluntary organisations, in organised religion, in friendship networks. Crucial to it is the idea that the moral sense should not differentiate too sharply between an in-group — such as a family — and the society. Where there is a radical differentiation, mafia societies arise, in which the family is treated with exaggerated honour and society is contemptuously preyed upon. Societies with social capital are more or less decent to more or less everyone.

Social capital, he believes — and in some moods the Prime Minister follows him in this — has been leached away since the 1960s, the time when family roles came under radical attack: when women began moving rapidly into the workforce, when tradition was vilified, when vast projects of social reform in housing, in welfare, in the promotion of equality, really got going. For Fukuyama, much of the task of any government in the democratic states is to repair the damage done by progressives of the 1960s and 1970s. New Labour privately concedes that this is one of its roles. In that sense, it is making war on its old Labour legacy.

Fukuyama is sceptical about governments being able to do very much in the reconstruction, or reinvention, of social capital. New Labour is optimistic that it is much of what it is about. Optimism is part of what made the party attractive and got elected. Labour may be nearer the mark than he. In New Zealand, for example, an innovation known as Family Group Conferences — in which police and social workers attempt to deal with young criminals by convening meetings of families as extended as possible and of the criminal's victims and their families — has worked, it is said, relatively well. The idea came from Maori practice: Labour is to try something similar.

Having lost the progressive urge to reform by massive project, our governments are now drawn back to improve by selective reworking at a smaller scale. That sometimes involves harking back to earlier societies, even to buried ones, and recovering practices that might be refurbished for our times. We have, in any case, little choice but to try to construct new stores of social capital, having been careless with those bequeathed to us. Labour may not know quite how to do it — no one does — but it is plugging away as it can.



IRELAND'S CHOICE

Left and Right, not green and greener

For most of the life of the Irish State, its politics have been skewed by civil war divisions and made more complex by the voting system. This election offers an escape from the past. Competition between Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael has given Ireland some impressive Prime Ministers such as Sean Lemass and the incumbent, John Bruton. It has, however, also denied voters the clear choice between Right and Left available in other modern European states. In the coming campaign there will be a multitude of parties but two coherent alternatives, a centre-Left Government or a centre-Right opposition.

The current Government is not one Ireland's voters chose. It is the choice of one man — Dick Spring, the leader of the Irish Labour Party and Tróise's answer to Hans-Dietrich Genscher. Like the former German Foreign Minister, the current Irish Foreign Minister has allowed the voters their say and then blithely made and unmade governments as it suited him, exploiting the leverage afforded by Ireland's system of proportional representation.

Now, however, the playboy of the Dail has settled down, albeit with two partners. To his great credit, Mr Spring has lashed himself to his allies in the current centre-Left coalition, the liberal Fine Gael party and the post-Marxist Democratic Left. His stance has forced the opposition parties, the populist Fianna Fáil and right-wing Progressive Democrats, to coalesce into a centre-Right bloc. The resulting clarity of the choice not only helps the voter cast his ballot, it should confer on the next government in Dublin a proper mandate.

The authority such a mandate might confer could help advance the peace process in Northern Ireland. The scale of Tony Blair's victory has strengthened his hand in Ulster, as elsewhere in the governance of the

United Kingdom. So far, he has used that strength wisely. Republicans have been forcefully reminded that an unambiguous ceasefire is an absolute precondition of their inclusion in talks. Unionist leaders have been assured that the opinions of Ulster's democratic majority will be paramount. At the same time, determination has been shown in dealing with contentious parades.

It is one of the benefits of the patient diplomacy that underpinned the peace process that those who wish to see the rights of Ulster's Unionists respected should now want a strong government in Dublin. Uncertainty is the oxygen of terrorism. If doubts exist, whether about Ulster's security within the UK or the longevity and determination of governments in London or Dublin, then the extremists will exploit it.

Whatever their flaws, and they are imperfect drafts for the future, the Downing Street Declaration and Framework Documents on the future of Northern Ireland have created a consensus for consent among Dublin politicians. Fine Gael, the Democratic Left and the Progressive Democrats have always been unsentimental and un-deceived about the Provisionals.

Fianna Fáil, who may form the bulk of the next government, has different traditions. It has republican roots and supporters of the deepest green but its conversion to the peace process is not superficial. Its leaders are now committed to working with the British Government to find a settlement in Ulster which wins the consent of the Province's Unionist people. Far from using power to browbeat Unionists, a Fianna Fáil government could use it decisively against the real impediments to progress — the irreconcilables of the IRA. Ireland's voters, and Ulster's people, should be confident that, whatever this election's result, modern democracy will be the winner.

MOBUTU'S FINAL HOURS

A sick man, deaf to reason, wants to leave his trail of blood

With Laurent Kabila's insurgent army already closing in on Kinshasa, President Mobutu has made a last attempt to avert a bloodbath. The South African leader, the only man with sufficient prestige and political weight to intervene in Zaire's civil war, has invited both sides for more talks in Cape Town. But there now seems little prospect of any success. Mr Mobutu, blinded by his own high standards to the ugliness of conflicts elsewhere on the continent, is counting on the logic of goodwill that does not exist. The only logic for the insurgents is to win and destroy the power and, if necessary, the person of President Mobutu. The only logic of the dying dictator is hubris: if he cannot retain absolute power, he will sacrifice his supporters and his capital in his fall.

The difficulty for the international community is how to avert further bloodshed. The best solution would be the unopposed victory of Mr Kabila's forces. They have already marched almost the breadth of the vast country meeting only token opposition. In most cases, the unpaid rag-tag Zairean army has simply melted away, and villages have welcomed the Tutsi-dominated army as liberators. But now they stand on the outskirts of Kinshasa, and some units of Mobutu's army are ready to fight — not because they have the discipline or motivation of professional soldiers, but because they are themselves so steeped in corruption, plunder and murder that they fear bloody revenge from the people whom they have abused.

The greater danger, however, is not that there will be set battles between the Mobutu and Kabila forces; such skirmishes would quickly be over. The fear is that Mobutu's henchmen will run amok within Kinshasa at the instigation of the man they nominally

serve. The wily old ruler has used this tactic with some success in the past to intimidate his enemies. He may now be hoping that chaos and bloodshed will prompt foreign intervention, and that in the confusion he will be able to rally his supporters and undermine the standing and power of the rebels.

The West is fully prepared for this eventuality. The BBC has been broadcasting messages to those Britons remaining in Kinshasa urging them to leave. A well-equipped British military force on the other side of the Congo river has been practising the rapid evacuation of Britons and other foreigners who may be trapped in any fighting. International agencies are already sending out personnel and packing away their equipment. The city, deserted as its residents go on general strike, awaits, fearful, for the marauding soldiers.

Even at this late stage there are some, especially in the corridors of the Quai d'Orsay, who believe that they can prevail on President Mobutu to leave in peace. They should study more closely the mentality of a man who has bled his country of money, of lives and of dignity. If he had wanted to take up Mr Kabila's offer of a chance to go into exile, he could have done so. He could have remained in Gabon, where he went with delusions that his fellow francophone leaders would come to his aid. But he is a sick man, deaf now to reason. Like the Nazis in the bunker who believed against the odds, that the war could yet be won, Mobutu and his clan are determined to hold on to the trappings of office. Their fall is inevitable; when it happens the outside world must send a clear message to Mr Kabila that the vengeance and bloodshed must be halted immediately.

MUNICIPAL GLORIES

Lottery money will help restore Britain's public parks

In its attempt to pour its bounty on popular causes that benefit ordinary people, the National Lottery yesterday made a magnificent choice. The Heritage Lottery Fund announced a massive £57 million grant to rescue many of Britain's municipal parks from the dereliction and squalor into which they have fallen over the past 20 years. The money will be spent on new benches and promenades, repairing fences and replanting flowerbeds. Most importantly, money will also be available to reinstate resident park-keepers, the vanishing guardians of Britain's urban green spaces. It was their dismissal, axed by local authority budget cuts, that delivered the coup de grace. Former botanical masterpieces, focal points for civic pride and community spirit, were abandoned to vandals, drug dealers, muggers and weeds.

Municipal parks were created by Victorian pride and well-intentioned philanthropy. Many were founded a century ago, when grimy northern towns were reaping the rewards of booming exports. The parks were not only intended to impress and indulge the Victorian passion for nature and botany; they were also designed as refuges from smoky tenements, where poorer families could enjoy a little of the fresh air and sun that had all but disappeared from industrial Britain. They included bandstands, ornamental bridges and even the occasional pagoda where the young and the elderly could enjoy their few hours of free time.

Indeed, Victorian planners so impressed visitors that other countries followed suit. Birkenhead Park in Liverpool, one of the first sights for those arriving on the ships from America, was the inspiration for New York's Central Park. The British took their green ideas abroad with them, and capital cities around the Empire were laid out with formal gardens and fountains. Exotic plants and unusual trees found their way back to Britain; even cemeteries became places where families could pay pious visits among the shrubs and well-tended graves.

The Second World War did untold damage to city parks. Railings were ripped up, lawns and beds were ploughed and ornate park buildings abandoned after bombing. With the postwar flight to the suburbs, parks were no longer the meeting point for the middle classes. Bands no longer played on Sundays. Winter gardens fell into disuse, spa towns were abandoned by those fleeing to Mediterranean sun and commercial development crowded these once open spaces.

Civic pride, however, has not died, and parks are enjoying a resurgence of interest, thanks to nostalgic appreciation of Victorian-era, a new interest in urban heritage and the green movement. But without money to restore and maintain this great legacy, parks would have been written off as eyesores inhabited by drunks, best converted into shopping malls. The Heritage Lottery now has a chance to spearhead a national revival of Britain's urban lungs.

Lessons of former leadership polls

From Sir William Shelton

Sir, I have nothing but admiration for the present six candidates for the Conservative leadership (letters, May 3, 7, 9, 14, 15). However, they are all, rightly or wrongly, associated with the problems of the past administration — except perhaps John Redwood.

I regret that John Major decided to announce his withdrawal as leader so soon. It is a pity, as William Rees-Mogg says ("Exhausted volcans", May 15), that some arrangement could not be made to enable Christopher Patten to enter the lists: an outstanding chairman of the Conservative Party, an excellent parliamentarian, ex-Governor of Hong Kong — and completely unassociated with the defeated administration.

I also note that there are calls for the participation of Conservative associations. My view is that only those who have worked in the House of Commons with the candidates can reach a balanced judgment. When the late Airey Neave and I together organised Margaret Thatcher's campaign for the Conservative leadership in 1975, the views of Conservative peers and constituency associations were sought and conveyed to all Conservative MPs, but they had no vote.

It is my recollection that a large majority supported the retention of Edward Heath as leader. Enough said.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM SHELTON
(Conservative MP, 1970-92),
Manor House,
Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire.
May 15.

From Sir Robert Rhodes James

Sir, In your front-page report of May 10 an unnamed chairman of a Conservative association claims that in November 1990 the associations were "100 per cent" in support of Margaret Thatcher.

In Cambridge the chairman of my association conducted a secret ballot of the officers and consulted my successor as candidate and our president. The result was 12 votes for Thatcher, six for Heseltine, and 12 for a change of leader (a kind of "anyone but Thatcher" vote). In fact it was even worse for Thatcher after I had consulted former officers of the association and some genuine Conservative activists: they were almost unanimously in favour of a change of leadership.

I was frankly surprised by the extent of the hostility in my association to the then Prime Minister, but went to London on the Monday still undecided. The events of the next 24 hours convinced me that the clear majority opinion in my association was the right one.

One of the extraordinary features of that tumultuous weekend was that with the exception of a long telephone call from a distraught lady who loathed Heseltine I did not receive one call or message from anyone, in the constituency or outside, urging me to vote for Thatcher. As I was a waverer this was all the more astonishing, as had I resisted my association's manifest opinion and voted for her she might well have survived on the first ballot.

The legend of the "100 per cent" support for Thatcher in the Conservative associations requires challenging before it becomes sanctified as historical truth.

I am, Sir, etc,
ROBERT RHODES JAMES
(Conservative MP for Cambridge, 1976-92),
The Stone House, Great Gransden,
Sandy, Bedfordshire.
May 10.

Choice of Camelot

From the Director General of the National Lottery

Sir, Your continuing critical opinion of me as the Director General of the National Lottery (leading article, May 13) may be legitimate journalism. Your repeated inaccurate reporting, *inter alia*, of the circumstances surrounding my choice of Camelot as the operator of the National Lottery, is not.

"Lottery shake-up seeks to abolish giant profits" (report, May 12) alleges that the Director General "was forced to defend himself against claims that the hospitality had influenced his decision to award the contract".

The sequence of events demonstrates this to be inaccurate. The announcement that I had chosen Camelot as the preferred applicant for the licence to run the National Lottery was made in May 1994. The formal licence was awarded in July 1994. The "hospitality" to which you refer occurred in October 1994, several months after the award of the licence.

In its report of July 1995 the National Audit Office endorsed both the process used to evaluate applications and the choice of Camelot as the operator.

Yours faithfully,
PETER A. DAVIS,
Director General,
The National Lottery,
2 Monck Street, SW1.
May 14.

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Sport letters, page 46

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Sinn Fein and the oath of allegiance

From Mr Francis Bennion

Sir, You report (May 15) the Speaker's ruling that the two Sinn Féin MPs who decline to take the oath of allegiance, and so cannot assume their seats, must not after all use the facilities of the House of Commons. This does not wholly resolve the problem posed by MPs like Martin McGuinness and Gerry Adams who, in the Speaker's words, choose not to take up their responsibility as members.

Such MPs deprive even those constituents who did not vote for them of effective parliamentary representation. It is nauseating for Mr Adams to say, as you report: "I have a duty, as has Martin McGuinness, to represent my constituency." It seems necessary to state the obvious and point out that the sole purpose of a parliamentary election is to procure the election of representatives who will "take up their responsibility as members".

I suggest that what is needed is an amendment to the duties of returning officers as laid down by the Representation of the People Acts. If a returning officer learns that a candidate has indicated that if elected he intends not to take the oath of allegiance, the officer should have to require him to sign a statutory declaration of intention to take the oath if elected.

Refusal to sign would disqualify the candidate from standing in the election. The voters who nominated him could then choose another candidate who better understood the nature of what he was about.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCIS BENNION,
5 Old Nursery View,
Kennington, Oxford.
May 12.

Relaxing the rules

From Professor Brian Harrison

Sir, Both your leader today on the use of Christian names in Cabinet, and your report of the decision to do this (May 9; see also letters, May 13, 14), where you refer to Blair's "break with the formality of his predecessors", neglect the fact that we have been here before. Tony Benn writes in his diary for March 5, 1974, that at the Labour Cabinet on that day the Prime Minister Harold Wilson announced that thenceforward first names would be used "following what Tony Benn suggested years ago".

Barbara Castle's diary says that the announcement evoked a cheer, and that Wilson told Benn, "so you get your point at last". Can surviving members of the Wilson and Callaghan Cabinets please tell us how it all worked out in practice?

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN HARRISON
(Professor of Modern British History),
Corpus Christi College, Oxford.
May 14.

Queen's Speech

From Mr J. M. S. Ekins

Sir, Elaborate ceremonies can easily be turned into absurdity unless they are sensitively handled. It seems unfair to me to ask the Queen to read out a speech which has been released to the public beforehand.

The Prime Minister should either apply to the Queen's Speech the news embargo applied to the Budget Speech or discuss with Her Majesty the abandonment of this demeaning ritual.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES EKINS,
Old Lime House,
Easton, Winchester, Hampshire.
May 14.

Question Time

From Mr L. Wright

Sir, Prime Minister's Question Time on Wednesday (report, May 10): why spoil both long weekends?

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE WRIGHT,
Orchard House, Tigley,
Dartington, Totes, Devon.
May 10.

Darwin, by a short leg

From Dr Chris Boyd

Sir, Mr Peter Talbot Willcox seems to be suggesting (letter, May 6) that an inability to observe unequivocally the emergence of a new species undermines the credibility of Darwinian evolution. Not so: it is a central plank of Darwinism that speciation is usually such a relatively rare and slow event that we are unlikely ever to see it played out from beginning to end.

However, the indirect evidence for speciation by evolutionary transformation is so overwhelming and consistent that to deny it borders on the irrational. The basic principle of descent through modification of all organisms from a common ancestor is as underpinned scientifically as the principle of gravity.

Furthermore, as eloquently summarised by Mr Alan Geal (letter, May 12), Darwin's natural selection theory is subject to the same Popperian safeguard of explicit falsifiability as is any other scientific theory.

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS BOYD,
115 Greenbank Road, Edinburgh 10.

Suicide decisions must be respected

From Dr Colin Howson

Sir, You report (May 5) the case of an elderly woman who had attempted suicide and emphatically indicated that she did not wish to be resuscitated, only to have this wish defied (unsuccessfully) by a paramedic. The paramedic's action was subsequently praised by the coroner.

In my view, every individual has the right to evaluate their own life; it is indefensible to deny them, or encourage others to deny them, the right to decide, on the basis of that evaluation, whether to end it.

Had they been saved from the consequences of their decision they might have come to believe that it was the wrong one. But that is something for them to consider at the time, not a precaution to be exercised on their behalf by others without their consent.

It remains the right of anyone to try to dissuade them from taking such decisions: it is morally impermissible to seek to prevent them from doing so.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN HOWSON,
The London School of Economics
and Political Science,
Department of Philosophy,
Logic and Scientific Method,
Houghton Street, WC2.
May 8.

V&A closures

From Dr Alan Borg, Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum

Sir, Mr Denis Sullivan's letter (May 13) about gallery closures at the V&A was very reasonable under the circumstances. He has my sympathy and apologies, as I too find such closures unacceptable. We have, therefore, already started the process of recruiting extra warding staff in order to keep the galleries open, so I hope the summer will be better in this respect than he predicts. Unfortunately, such additional staffing can only be funded by making other damaging savings elsewhere in our budget.

This situation is the direct result of the severe cuts to our annual grant from government, which have left us struggling to fulfil many of our public duties. In 1995 that grant stood at £31.6 million, today it is £29.9 million and by 1999 it is predicted to fall to £28.7 million. Unless the new administration reverses these cuts and restores the value of our grant, the V&A, in common with most other national museums, will find public access ever more difficult to sustain.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN BORG, Director,
Victoria and Albert Museum,
South Kensington, SW7.
May 13.

Horner recalled

From Miss H. M. Sands

Sir, In the matter of early release for good pupils, Miss Rosalie Stephenson's Yorkshire father (letter, May 6) was indeed fortunate. My mother attended a village school in Yorkshire in the latter part of the last century; the last session was mental arithmetic and pupils were released as soon as they answered a question correctly.

My grandmother, a Welsh disciplinarian, counted on my mother's early appearance to help with the chores. No warm prune pie awaited her. Her choice lay between getting the answer right and running errands or getting it wrong and having her ears boxed for being late.

Her mental arithmetic remained excellent throughout her life. Yours sincerely,
MARJORIE SANDS,
16 Derwent Drive, Orpington, Kent.
May 6.

High water mark

From Mr R. V. Munden

Sir, You report (early editions, May 9) that additional evidence of global warming and the consequent rising of sea levels has intensified concern that "some small island states, such as Mauritius ... will disappear under the waves".

I thought I was fairly safe from this danger here in the Blackdown Hills but, having once stood many hundreds of feet above sea level on the rim of an extinct volcano on Mauritius, I am now not so sure.

Yours sincerely,
R. V. MUNDEN,
Lower Woodbrook,
Lewton, Taunton, Somerset.
May 9.

Technical assistance

From Mr William Jenkin

Sir, On the train this morning, I sat opposite a gentleman doing the crossword. Every now and then he would glance surreptitiously at an electronic gadget held beneath his folded paper, which enabled him to find a selection of words based on only a few letters.

Could this perhaps be the equivalent of using an illicit calculator in an exam? Certainly the way he held it out of sight gave me the impression that he thought so.

Yours sincerely,
WILLIAM JENKIN,
4 Pageant Road,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.
May 14.

OBITUARIES

PAT HUGHES

Pat Hughes, tennis player, died on May 8 aged 94. He was born on December 21, 1902.

Captain of one of the most successful ever British Davis Cup tennis teams and the only Englishman to have won the singles title at the Italian Open, Pat Hughes was an outstanding sportsman and acknowledged to be one of the finest doubles players of his generation.

He partnered Fred Perry to victory in the doubles at the French Open in 1933 and again to the doubles title in the Australian Open in the following year. He reached the Wimbledon doubles final with Perry in 1932 and won the title again, partnering Raymond Tuckey in 1936. Indeed, Hughes's finest years in the mid-1930s included what many regard as the glory days of British tennis.

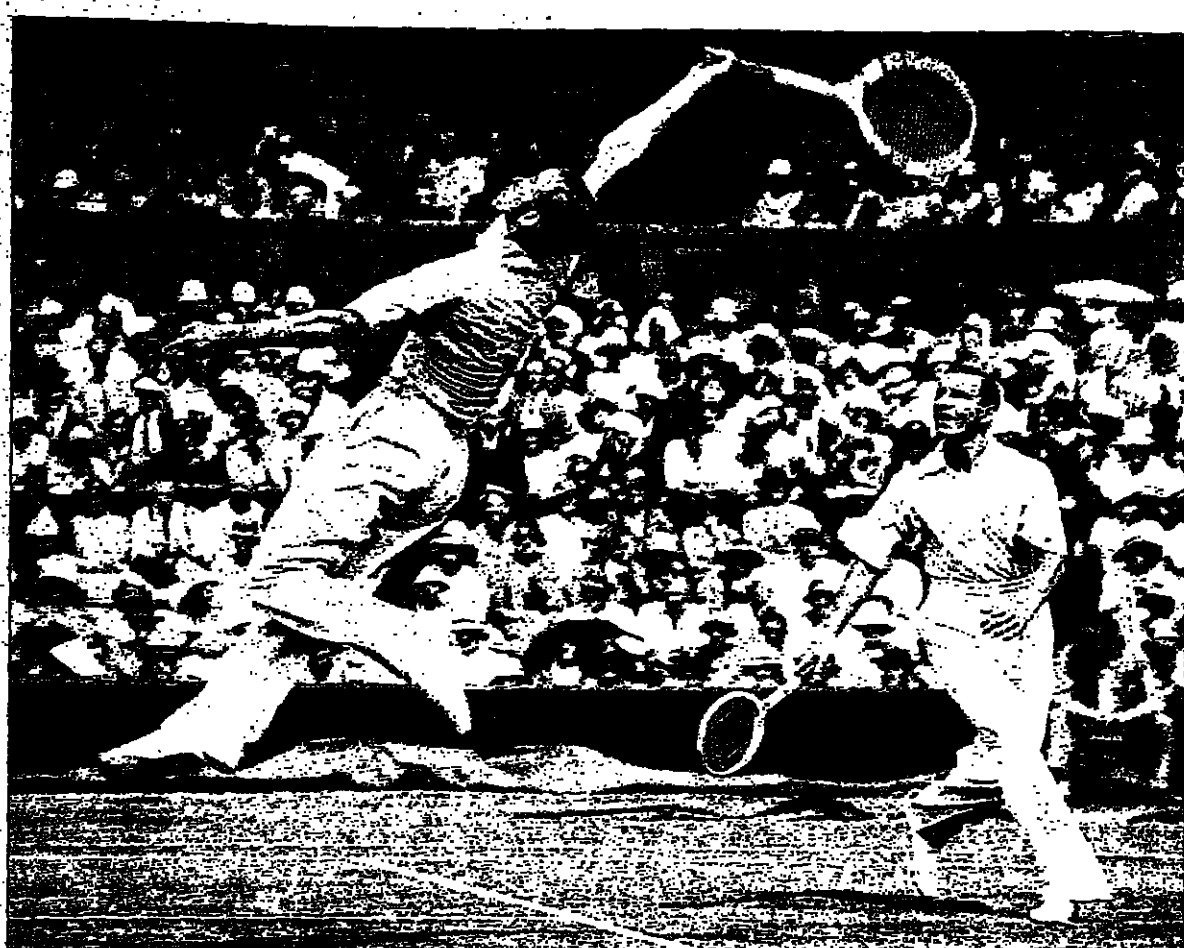
George Patrick Hughes, universally known as Pat, was born in Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire, one of a family of eight children. He was educated at St Malachy's College, Belfast, and the University of London, where he graduated in economics. For a time after that he lectured in economics at University College, Southampton (as it then was), before taking up a brief appointment with the National State Bank of New York.

He took up tennis as a boy in Belfast. The family house had a tennis court and his father bought an old net from a local tennis club for just a few shillings. The young Hughes fell in love with the game and when he was still only nine years old, his father taught him how to cut the grass with a handmower and paint the lines.

At university he continued with his passion for tennis, practising whenever he could and making much use of the public courts in Lincoln's Inn Fields. He maintained that the only way to improve was through dedication and saved hard as a student to buy new rackets and balls. He spent so much time on the Lincoln's Inn Fields courts that he frequently had to attend night classes to catch up on lectures he had missed during the day.

He began competition tennis in earnest after he had obtained his degree. He played county tennis for Essex in the 1920s and first came to prominence towards the end of that decade by winning a London Evening News competition and the Irish Doubles in 1928 and 1930.

He represented Great Britain in the famous Davis Cup team of 1929 to 1936 which won the Davis Cup in 1933 and then retained it until 1936. He played at Wimbledon every summer between



Hughes, left, and Fred Perry on their way to victory over the French pair in the Davis Cup at Wimbledon, 1933

1926 and 1937 but was never able to get further than the quarter-finals in the men's singles event.

Perhaps his finest hour was in Italy in 1931 when he won both the singles and the doubles titles at the Italian Open, defeating the excellent French player, Henri Cochet, in the final of the singles. His strength, however, was undoubtedly in his intuitive and unselfish play, a style that was particularly suited to the doubles game. And it was at doubles that he excelled.

Although he formed a successful partnership with Fred Perry, with whom he played at the Wimbledon Championships for four successive years between 1931 and 1934, it was with Raymond Tuckey that he displayed his best form. Together they played a vigorous game of strong, attacking tennis, complemented by their complete, almost instinctive, mutual understanding. Seemingly inspired by his partner, Hughes's tennis improved rapidly and his game benefited from a flatter and faster serve as well as more aggressive forehand

drives. Tuckey played in the backhand court and Hughes covered his favourite, the right.

In 1934 Hughes and Tuckey asserted their dominance in the doubles field at the Queen's Club by beating Wilmer Allison and John van Ryn, former Wimbledon and US champions, Sidney Wood and the Spaniard E. ("Booby") Maier, and the then US Davis Cup pair, Don Budge and Gene Mako. Two summers later, the partnership won the Doubles Championship at Wimbledon. It was to be an incredible year for them both, for, in addition to their Wimbledon victory, they won the Hard Court Doubles and Hughes won a singles title in the South of England championship.

His final appearance in the Wimbledon Doubles Championship was in 1939, when he partnered Tim Henman's grandfather, Henry Billington. They were defeated in the quarter-finals by Elwood Cooke and Bobby Riggs.

Hughes's dynamic personality dominated his game, making him a special

favourite with spectators. His lobs were much admired and his volleys were described in the contemporary press as those of a "madman". Off the court, too, his mischievous charm made him many friends and he was once described "as likely to take your shirt away from you at the bridge table or your best girl at a dinner party".

He retired from competition tennis after the war, during which he served as an acting pilot officer before being invalided out, and concentrated on his career with the Dunlop sports company. He was influential in encouraging Dunlop's development of tennis equipment and he eventually worked for them for more than 40 years, subsequently becoming their sports director. During his time at Dunlop's the company asserted itself as a leader in the field of tennis equipment and their Fort Maxply rackets were used by more than half of the competitors at Wimbledon in 1952. He edited *The Dunlop Lawn Tennis Almanac* from 1939 to 1958.

He never married.

VERE LADY BIRDWOOD

Vere Lady Birdwood, CVO, hospital administrator, died on May 1 aged 87. She was born on August 7, 1909.



VERE BIRDWOOD led a life of quiet distinction, driven by the value she put on self-sufficiency and her own independence of spirit. For 22 years she administered and managed the King Edward VII Hospital for Officers, establishing its reputation in the London medical world as a hospital enjoying the highest standards of nursing care.

Elizabeth Vere Drummond Ogilvie (as she was before her marriage) was born in Goring-on-Thames, the daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel Sir George Drummond Ogilvie, a distinguished member of the Indian Civil Service and a considerable scholar of Indian culture. She was to become the seventh generation of her family to live in India, where she spent a happy childhood, much of which she later recalled for the BBC radio series *Plain Tales from the Raj*.

She enjoyed an outdoor life, riding and hunting — she bagged her first leopard at 17 (though she later regretted the decision of the Indian Wildlife — and a detested being sent back to Britain to boarding school. She returned gladly to India in 1926 but, when she married five years later, Christopher, the son of Field Marshal Lord Birdwood ("Birdie"), the Commander-in-Chief India, she found that the easy relationships she had enjoyed as a child with the local people had to be exchanged for stiff regimental formalities. Her new position had few advantages, she soon concluded, except perhaps that she now had 700 mounts to choose from whenever she wanted to ride.

A resourceful woman, she was determined to make herself useful during the Second World War and learnt shorthand from a *babu* in Karachi's bazaar. She then went on to take a job as secretary to Sir Hugh Dow, Governor of Sind Province from 1942 to 1945.

At the end of the war, with her marriage already in trouble, she returned with her two children to England, where

she continued to support herself working as a secretary in a variety of posts and helping her father to run King Edward VII's Hospital for Officers, of which he had become House Governor. Deciding to put herself through a professional course of medical administration, she went on in 1950 to succeed her father as manager of the hospital. Her interest in medical matters also led to her appointment in the 1970s as a member of the Area Health Authority for Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea, and as vice-chairman of the Provident Association for Medical Care, 1977-82. She was appointed MVO in 1958 and advanced to CVO in 1972.

For a short while at the end of the 1950s Vere Birdwood also made a foray into local politics, spending four years as a Chelsea borough councillor. But by the end of that period she realised that political life was not for her and, when Chelsea was amalgamated with Kensington in 1960, she did not stand again.

She embarked on a second

career when she was 63 years old, joining the Public Record Office where she worked as an editor, first at Chancery Lane and more recently at Kew. She edited the papers of many Prime Ministers, starting with Pitt the Elder and ending with Ramsay MacDonald. She retired when she was 85.

Her scholarship — she published several articles and monographs in the course of her life — was rewarded by the publication in 1994 of *So Dearly Loved, So Much Admired*, a commentary of Hester Pitt, Lady Chatham, based on her letters. Strikingly independent until the end of her life, she refused to play on her age or her title in any of the publicity surrounding this book.

Her marriage was dissolved in 1954 and Lord Birdwood married a second time. Vere Birdwood was subsequently often irritated when people mistook his second wife's extreme right-wing opinions for her own.

She is survived by her son and her daughter.

THE MARCHESE FALCONE LUCIFERO

The Marchese Falcone, Minister of the Royal Household to the House of Savoy, 1944-83, died on May 3 aged 99. He was born in Crotone on January 3, 1898.

FOR half a century the Marchese Falcone Lucifero campaigned tirelessly for Italy to allow the male line of the House of Savoy, the Italian royal family, to return from exile to its homeland. To many Italians it appeared a quixotic lost cause. But his long battle ended in a significant victory two days before he died, when Parliament introduced legislation expected to reform the Republican constitution and to end the ban on male heirs to the throne setting foot on Italian soil.

At first sight Lucifero, a renegade Calabrian nobleman who had been a convinced socialist since the age of

12, was — as his enemies at court did not hesitate to whisper — an unlikely choice for such a role. But as Minister for Agriculture in Marshal Badoglio's Government he attracted the attention of the then heir to the throne, Prince Umberto. "I ask you to help me," the Prince wrote, "we can expect very difficult times."

Lucifero's socialism was born out of revulsion at the poverty he saw before the First World War in his native Crotone. He further developed his ideas during the First World War while reading law at the University of Turin. Having refused to take money from his family, he studied at his own expense, working in a variety of odd jobs, including as a theatre extra, to pay his way. In Turin he made a friend of the Marxist philosopher Antonio Gramsci.

During the interwar dictatorship Lucifero practised as a

lawyer in Crotone and dropped out of politics, refusing to join the Fascist Party. But after the signing of the Italian Armistice on September 3, 1943, and the British Eighth Army's crossing of the Straits of Messina the same day, he was appointed the Badoglio Government's Prefect in Catanzaro on the recommendation of two Allied officers who considered him untainted by the King's regime.

He immediately shocked Badoglio's conservative followers by visiting the prison cell at Turin, where Gramsci was held, explaining that he was acting "on behalf of the King of Italy".

Lucifero soon made a name for himself as an able administrator with an open mind. He was in succession Prefect of Bari, Agriculture Minister and Minister of the Royal Household. According to court gossip, his rise to influ-

ence also was because of his links to Freemasonry.

Whether that was true or not, Prince Umberto made it clear he shared many of Lucifero's ideals. "We think alike," he told him, "individual freedom and social justice also is my motto." Lucifero acquired a small Fiat 500 car and drove the Prince around the impoverished suburbs of Rome to acquaint him with the condition of his people. Victor Emmanuel formally abdicated on May 9, 1946, and Umberto succeeded him as king. Lucifero then orchestrated the monarchist campaign in the run-up to a referendum on the monarchy.

But the Italians voted for its abolition and the King left for his exile in Portugal. During this time, Lucifero continued to provide him with unorthodox advice designed to keep royalist sentiment alive in Italy. In 1961, for example,

he persuaded him to issue a proclamation applauding the experiment of the first postwar Centre-Left Government. In 1980, on one of his last royal missions, Lucifero travelled to the Ispirita area to distribute aid sent by the King to alleviate the plight of victims of the Naples earthquake.

From his home, a grace and favour apartment on the banks of the Tiber, Lucifero remained in contact with the Republican authorities including most recently the feisty President Sandro Pertini and the then Socialist Prime Minister Bettino Craxi. He badgered them unsuccessfully, to allow the *re di Maggio* (King of May) as he was popularly known, to realise his last dream "to die on Italian soil".

Lucifero's last years were embittered by a quarrel with Umberto's son, Prince Victor Emmanuel, the current heir, who two months after his father's death took the royal seal from Lucifero.

After resigning as Minister of the Royal Household he was taken up by those monarchists who believed that the Duke of Aosta, Victor Emmanuel's cousin, might make a better king (should there ever be a restoration in Italy). Hundreds of supporters attended Lucifero's funeral in Rome, many of them shouting *Viva Il Re* (long live the king) as his coffin was carried out of the church.

Lucifero was a gifted amateur painter and wrote a volume of reminiscences *Memorie dell'estate*, several poems and a novel, *Tonina*. He was unmarried.

SIDNEY PREVEZER

Sidney Prevezer, solicitor and former Professor of Law at the University of Sussex, died of cancer on April 24 aged 67. He was born on May 9, 1929.

SIDNEY PREVEZER did not have a conventional career in the law either as an academic or as a practitioner. At a time when there was a deep gulf between the two, he moved effortlessly back and forth across the divide between academic and professional life.

Sidney Prevezer arrived at Cambridge in 1948 with an exhibition to read modern languages at St Catharine's College. He changed to law for Part II of the Tripos. His acute analytical mind combined with an encyclopaedic memory made him an outstanding student. His contemporaries were not in the least surprised by his started first.

Interested in criminal law, he went in 1951 as an assistant lecturer to University College London, where one of the most outstanding academic lawyers of that time, Professor Glanville Williams, then held the law chair. He remained there until 1964, becoming a lecturer and then a Reader and finding time also to obtain an LL.M. from Harvard.

He proved a brilliant communicator and teacher, and to this day there are top partners of City law firms, QCs and more than one senior judge, who readily acknowledge that their later success was in part due to the understanding of the working of the common law instilled in them by Prevezer.

Prevezer, however, was always attracted by the different challenges which practice involves. He took articles and for a time combined practice with part-time teaching. In 1966 he became the litigation partner in Brechers, a firm he helped to build into one of the leading West End commercial firms. In practice his other qualities came to the fore. He was a great strategist and a formidable manager of large scale litigation who paid assid-



uous attention to detail. He soon had a strong following of clients.

One of the advantages of Brechers, Prevezer soon found, was the proximity of their Brook Street offices to London's galleries and auction rooms. He spent his lunchtimes indulging his hobby of collecting modern paintings. And during his time there he built up a magnificent collection. It was also while he was there that he became involved

with the committee of Soviet Jewry, making several trips to Russia at some personal risk. After 13 years at Brechers, however, Prevezer hankered again after the values of the academic world. Sussex University was, in 1979, looking for a new Professor of Law and he was appointed to the chair.

It was a challenging post, since law at that time was not a degree subject in its own right at Sussex, but part of the School of English and American studies. Whether this should continue to be the position was in some doubt. But Prevezer met the challenge and even managed, for the sake of the cause, to control the difficulty he normally had in suffering fools gladly. He raised the profile of law so that when he retired ten years later already in place were the foundations which two years later, in 1991, became the new Centre of Legal Studies.

After he left Sussex, Prevezer returned to practice as a consultant first with Oswing's (1991), then Howard Kennedy (1992) and finally S. J. Berwin (1992-97). The last four years of his life, however, were overshadowed by cancer. He dealt with his illness as he dealt with everything else in his life, with dignity, courage and determination. He worked whenever he could at Berwin's and helped with the publication of legal text books. He also continued to enjoy his other great hobby, opera.

He is survived by his wife Enid, one of his former students whom he married in 1955, and by two sons and two daughters.

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THE NEW KING.

(FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES.)

Muscle is King. Cotton is not. Nigger is not. Muscle is. Brains used to have some claim: so did worth: so did honesty, capability, and education, but that was a long time ago. Muscle has taken precedence over everything, and the man who "strikes from the shoulder", and is a good hard hitter, is the man for the people's money now-a-days. If you doubt it, you may satisfy yourself of the truth of our proposition by stepping into the first place of public resort which you happen to be passing. Whether it be a court-room or a bar-room, a silk store or a grog shop, if there be any number of men together, their talk will be of the prize-fight. All classes of people seem to share this restless anxiety to hear the result; with the great mass of the people it is the great topic of conversation and speculation, eclipsing even the Charleston Convention and throwing completely into the shade all political themes, and everything else that can afford to wait. Even the boys in

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ON THIS DAY

May 16, 1860

One month earlier, the American Heenan and Sayers had fought each other to a standstill at Farnborough, the police moving in after 42 rounds to stop the fight which lasted just over two hours. Top hats were prominent among the spectators, which included MPs, Thackeray and Dickens. Both pugilists died before they were 40.

Our schools have caught the contagion, and their talk too, like that of our city officials, our brokers in Wall Street, our merchants on "Change, our clerks at lunch-time, apprentices in the work-shops, is of Heenan and Sayers.

Muscle has arrayed itself against every proper qualification, and when the conquering hero comes home, his reception will not be that of a successful prize-fighter, but that of a man whose *dictum* will hereafter be law to thousands. How differently will be the

position of Sayers, should he succeed in thrashing Heenan! He will only receive some few hard knocks, a few hundred or a thousand pounds, and be content to retire for ever from the ring, and settle down as the keeper of a public house, patronised by the fast nobility and "nobs" of the English sporting world. A prize-fighter in Great Britain is a prize-fighter. His social condition is marked, distinct, and defined. He would no more dare to set the laws at defiance, than the weakest and most easily thrashed man in the land, because he knows that out of his own immediate circle he has no influence whatever. Not with us. Muscle is King here, and if Muscle knocks peaceable citizens down and kicks them for falling, and you threaten him with the law, Muscle snaps his fingers in your face and laughs at the absurdity of the idea. Possibly a time may come when brains, respectability, moral worth may be admitted to a partnership in the Government of the country, but as yet we see few symptoms of its dawning.

WHO WILL BE HIT BY THE WINDFALL TAX

British Telecom dials resistance

By ERIC REGULY

BRITISH TELECOM was a classic utility in every sense of the word before its privatisation in 1984. The company and the City believe the comparison is no longer valid and that a Labour-imposed utility tax would be nothing short of "perverse".

BT and utility should not be uttered in the same breath, they say, because BT is not a monopoly and does not make windfall profits. Arguably, BT's only connection to utility status is that it provides an essential service.

Before privatisation, BT controlled 100 per cent of the phone market and controlled it badly. It had 245,000 employees compared with 127,500 today. BT's profit and the prices it

charged varied wildly, depending on the political agendas of the successive governments. BT argues that it stopped being a utility on the day it was privatised. The Government's sale of its BT shares coincided with the creation of OfTel, the telecoms industry regulator, whose job it was to ensure that BT's prices did not rise faster than the rate of inflation and that the company lost market share to competitors. Mercury Communications, then owned by Cable and Wireless, rose to challenge.

Nonetheless, BT remained an effective monopoly throughout the 1980s. In an effort to introduce more competition, the Government dismantled the BT-Mercury duopoly in 1991 and allowed cable companies to use their networks for telephony as well as TV services.

BT has held up remarkably well against the onslaught of competition. According to OfTel, it controlled about 80 per cent of the overall telecoms market in 1996. It has less than two-thirds of the market for international calls but controls 90 per cent of local calls. Under the 1973 Fair Trading Act, any company that controls more than 25 per cent of a given market is considered to have a "dominant" position.

Analysts say BT's profits cannot be considered excessive. Competition and OfTel's price-reduction measures have ensured that BT's profit margin, where profits are defined as earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation, are generally lower than those of its continental rivals. Market Lambert, an analyst at NatWest Securities, said BT's

profit margin of 37 per cent, a figure that has remained roughly static since 1984, is about 50 per cent less than the margins at Deutsche Telekom and Telecom Italia. It is also substantially less than that of CAW.

BT's profit margins are generally higher than the American long-distance giants, such as AT&T and MCI, and lower than the regional phone companies, such as Bell Atlantic and Ameritech. Such comparisons, however, are unfair because the American phone companies, unlike BT, do not offer a full range of services.

BT seems to have ample ammunition to defend itself against any accusation that it is reaping windfall profits. If BT is, then OfTel clearly has not been doing its job.

BT feels pinch from rivals and regulator

By ERIC REGULY

BRITISH TELECOM's core businesses saw little growth last year as competition intensified and price reductions imposed by OfTel, the industry regulator, cut income by more than £800 million.

Revenue in some services declined in the year to March 31. Turnover from inland calls, for example, fell marginally, to £4.87 billion, with international calls down almost 9 per cent, to £1.8 million. The declines were more marked in the fourth quarter, when inland call revenue fell 4.7 per cent and international call revenue fell 15.8 per cent.

Growth in overseas operations, phone-line rentals and mobile phone services was

barely enough to offset the declines. Overall turnover rose 3.4 per cent, to £14.94 billion.

Pre-tax profits climbed 6 per cent, to £3.2 billion, equivalent to 32.8p a share, up from 31.6p a share. A redundancy charge that fell by £54 million, to £367 million, and a stronger contribution from MCI of America, in which BT has a 20 per cent stake, were behind the improved profit figures.

BT has offered £13 billion for the rest of MCI, America's second-largest long-distance carrier. The merger was cleared this week by the European Commission. US regulatory approval for Concert, the name of the merged group, is expected in the autumn.

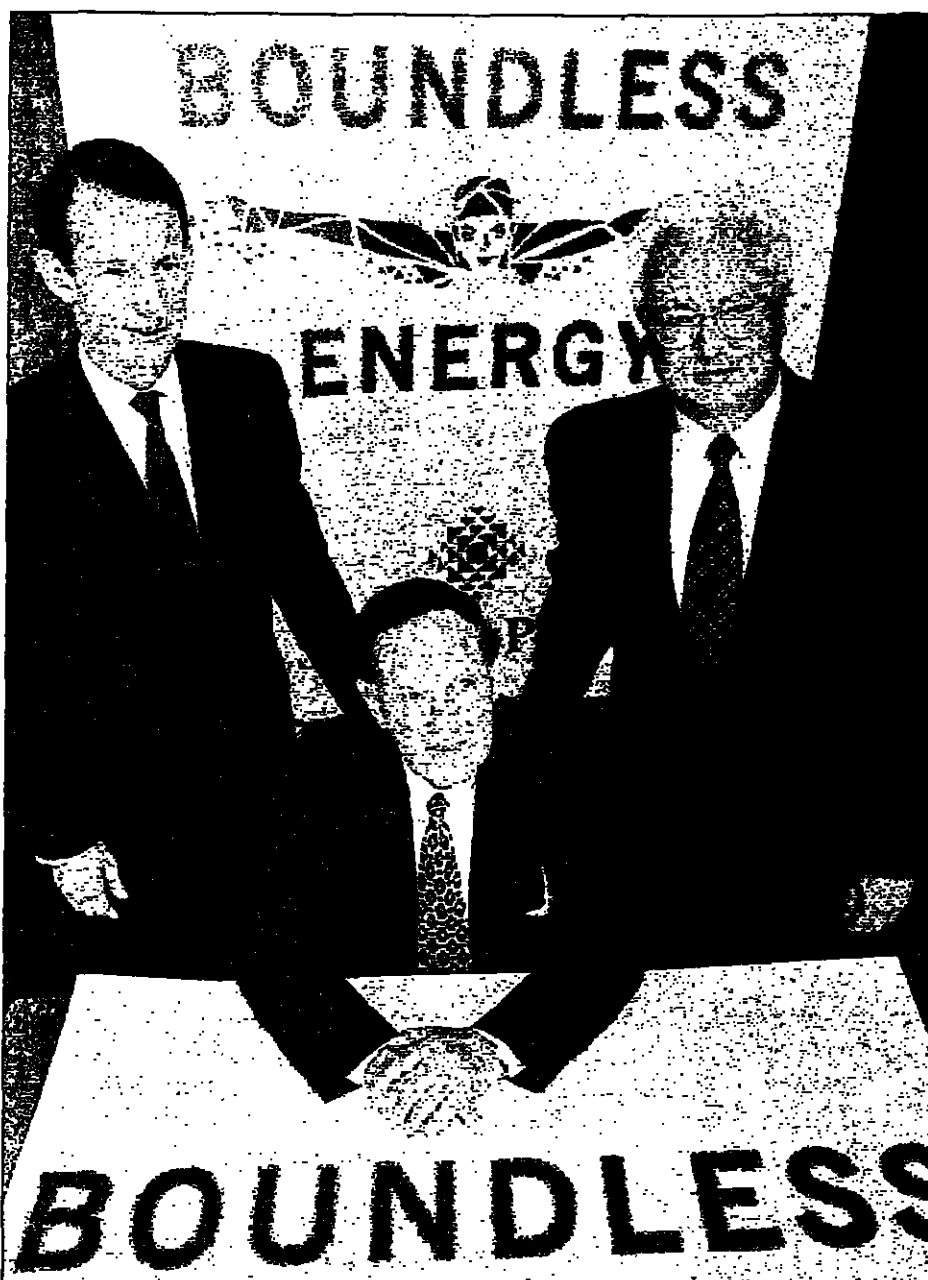
BT no longer seems committed to ensuring that its entire network consists of high-capacity fibre cables. The company has estimated the cost of upgrading the network at £15 billion. Sir Peter Bonfield, chief executive, said: "I do not think you will see a significant increase in our capital expenditures."

A final dividend of 11.95p, due on September 2, makes a total dividend of 19.85p, up 6.1 per cent. A 35p special dividend is to be paid at the same time. The shares rose 3p, to 452½p.



Bonfield: spending forecast

Tempus, page 30



Ian Russell, left, ScottishPower finance director, Murray Stuart and Ian Robinson

Multi-utility set to shed 1,500 jobs in revamp

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

UP TO 1,500 people are set to leave ScottishPower as the multi-utility pushes through business sales and redundancies at Southern Water, which it bought last year.

Already 650 staff have left the water company's core operations since ScottishPower — which now serves either electricity, water or gas to one in five UK customers — took over last August. Between 400 and 500 are still to be cut from the main operation, and about 1,000 face a change of employer with the disposal of non-core businesses, Ian Robinson, chief executive, said yesterday. ScottishPower presided over big job losses after buying Manweb in 1995. The company said that it was now looking at combining management operations between Manweb and ScottishPower.

The multi-utility, of which Murray Stuart is chairman, said that it was within weeks of announcing a major alliance with a national company to sell utilities when full competition is in place for gas and electricity.

In the year to March 31, sales rose by 29.5 per cent, to £2.9 billion, with the addition of Southern Water. Pre-tax profits rose by 37.9 per cent, to £58.4 million. The dividend rises by 19.4 per cent, to 18.5p, payable on October 1.

Director quits for career in teaching

GEORGE SHAND, finance director of Hay & Robertson, is giving up his £55,000 a year job with the sportswear group to become a primary school teacher. Mr Shand, a law graduate and a trained accountant, will join the University of London next session for a one-year intensive teacher training course before seeking a job in the profession. Lance Yates, chief executive, said: "It's a very brave decision. His wife is a headmistress and he's been a school governor for seven years — he sees teaching as his vocation and his first love."

Mr Shand leaves with a shareholding worth £445,000. He was part of the six-man team that took over Hay & Robertson 18 months ago when it was a cash shell with shares trading at 10p against yesterday's closing price of 148½p. The company made a profit of £638,000 (£260,000 loss) in the six months to March 31. Earnings were 2p a share (1.7p loss) and there is no dividend.

Carlisle makes profit

CARLISLE, the property company run by Nigel Wray, the entrepreneur, returned to the black with a pre-tax profit of £330,000 (£4.06 million loss). Property sales were £9.2 million over the year, allowing £7.2 million of loans to be repaid. The company said it was considering a "broad range" of acquisition opportunities but did not comment on speculation that Mr Wray will use it as a vehicle to take over Nottingham Forest football club. Again there is no dividend.

United News stable

UNITED NEWS & MEDIA, the media and exhibitions group, said in a trading statement yesterday that circulation at the Express newspapers had stabilised after their redesign. Lord Stevens, the United chairman who is reverting to a part-time role, said circulation of the titles has climbed in each of the first four months of this year over the second half of last year. Group revenues are "showing satisfactory growth", he said, with trading in line with expectations.

Pound hurts Coats

COATS VIYELLA, the textiles company, said that the competitiveness of UK-manufactured exports has been weakened by the strength of sterling, a factor that would also have an impact on the translation of profits this year. However, the company told shareholders at its annual meeting that the underlying trading performance should benefit from savings from its restructuring programme and from more favourable conditions in some markets.

MAID back in black

MAID, the online information company, returned its first quarterly profit in almost three years yesterday after its plan to concentrate on winning customers from the US delivered results. It made a pre-tax profit of £2.34 million (£1.43 million loss) in the first three months of the year. It won 80 per cent more business from America in the quarter and cut marketing costs to 35 per cent of sales. Earnings were 1.3p a share (1.6p loss), but there is no dividend. The shares rose 3p to 240½p.

Majedie asset value up

MAJEDIE INVESTMENTS, the self-managed trust that concentrates on listed investments, lifted its net asset value per share by 4.6 per cent, to 295p a share in the six months to March 31. The company said that it expected UK shares to continue to offer higher yields than overseas equities and would continue its domestic bias. In spite of a slight decline in revenue in the last three months, it is lifting the interim dividend to 3p (2.5p), due on June 9.

Marvel board loses case

A FEDERAL judge has granted bondholders of Marvel Entertainment Group the right to vote their shares to elect directors to the comic-book company's board. But he postponed the effective date of his decision by ten days to allow Marvel time to try to stop the bondholders from seizing control of the company that is behind Spider-Man and Captain America. His decision overturns one by a bankruptcy judge restraining bondholders, led by financier Carl Icahn.

Provision for new tax absent at BG

BG yesterday declared that it should not pay a windfall tax because, in the words of Philip Hampton, finance director, it was "simply a matter of fact that there had been no windfall for investors" (Christine Buckley writes).

His comments came after the industry regulator had declared that a windfall tax should not be needed if she had done her job.

BG, which is believed to be taking legal advice on the tax, refused to make a windfall tax provision in its accounts, saying it had not got sufficient information to set out a figure.

The company also issued a fresh warning about the roll-out of competition in domestic gas, saying systems were not

yet in place to implement the ambitious scheme. Mr Hampton said: "It is very difficult to see how the April 1998 deadline can be met, let alone October if the next phase is started earlier."

BG, the half of the former British Gas that encompasses Transco and exploration and production, delivered a 23 per cent fall in first quarter pre-tax profits to £711 million. Warmer weather helped to cut Transco's sales by £83 million.

Exploration and production saw a turnaround in the first three months of 1997, when a £7 million loss in the same period of last year was transformed into a £40 million profit on the back of rising prices and exploration successes.

Finding a method of payment

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

THE big question is how the windfall tax will be implemented. The rationale for it is that assets were sold too cheaply: monopoly companies then were weakly regulated and shareholders benefited to the detriment of customers.

It could be applied in four main ways: on sales; on what may be judged to be excess shareholder returns against benchmark measures; on pre-tax profit; or on what could be judged to be excess pre-tax profit against comparable companies.

According to the Institute of Fiscal Studies, if a tax was imposed using sales as its basis, then the generators would be looking at an 18 per cent share of a tax. If it were applied on shareholder returns they would be faced with a 27 per cent slice.

While Labour has pledged that the tax would be a one-off it has not indicated how it may be paid. It could be that it goes for a higher figure but asks for payment in two or more tranches.

A plan to devote the tax on a regional basis could resurface. This has been a favourite scheme of John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister.

THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

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Notice is given to all Bradford & Bingley Building Society variable rate borrowers, including Mortgages Direct borrowers, that the Interest Rate charged will be increased by 0.36%. This increase will take effect from 18 May 1997 for all variable rate borrowers apart from those mentioned in the next paragraph.

Borrowers who are entitled to written notice, and borrowers whose mortgages are regulated under the terms of the Consumer Credit Act 1974, will be notified by individual letter, of when the rate increase will apply.

Under the Society's annual review scheme, borrowers will be advised of the new Monthly Mortgage Payment on the annual mortgage statement that is issued in January.



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How to avoid a levy for lawyers



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Gordon Brown may be furious that British Telecom has threatened a legal challenge to his utility tax. The potential victims, who include 30 of the country's key investing businesses and nearly all its investors, have much better cause for anger.

At least two years after this most old-Labour of the Government's policies was fully formed, but only weeks before Mr Brown delivers his Budget, the victims have little idea how much he intends to raise, which companies he intends to raise it from or on what basis the levy will be made. The amount is a matter for the Cabinet. Labour should have spent out proposals for its scope and basis long ago.

At one extreme of uncertainty is BAA, which has done remarkably well since privatisation but is not most people's idea of a regulated monopoly utility. At the other is Centrica, which is clearly all three, but could be forced into insolvency by a uniform levy on turnover or profits back to 1986. According to the test adopted, BT could face a bill for more than £1 billion or nothing.

By now Geoffrey Robinson, the Treasury Minister belatedly told to work out the tax, will know he has a much harder job than those who designed the bank levy of 1981. Utilities have not such common thread as

banks and there is no fair way to levy a tax on all.

Turnover, profits or return on capital cannot be compared across utilities. That is why different utilities lobby for different bases. Attempts to define excess profits invite legal wrangling. There are crude international comparisons for BT but none for water.

Regulators could compare actual profits with those they projected but that could only apply to profits after the first review: from 1995 in electricity and water. If different bases are applied to different industries, let alone among companies within those industries, the seemingly limited scope for appeals to the European Court or for Parliamentary challenge multiplies.

The only objective test comparable across utilities is to measure excess returns to shareholders from privatisation to now, or to the date of takeover. This is not fair either, because it penalises good management and helps out laggards. But it would fall most heavily where the excesses were evident.

BT shareholders should pay

nothing because they would have been better off in an index trust, whether they invested in 1984, 1991 or 1993. Regional electricity companies, which paid out billions in excess cash without any adverse impact on their businesses, and water companies, some of which were obliged to follow suit, would pay a lot. If anyone should, they should.

Hoerner gets Burton out of a corner

When Burton Group reported its first-half figures yesterday, the stock market chose to ignore the rocketing sales and profits and to concentrate instead on a rather downbeat report on the last few weeks trading.

Such a superficial judgment is scant reward for the company's

achievements. Chief executive John Hoerner is so determined that his team should be judged on performance that he refused to avail himself of the retailer's favourite escape clause and blame the weather. But for once, the clouds provide a genuine excuse for what will be but a temporary lull in sales.

Hoerner took over the top job at Burton shortly after Liam Strong moved in at Sears. It is interesting to speculate what might have been achieved if their roles had been reversed. Although he admits that he has failed to find a formula to persuade fashionable men to shop in the relics of the original Montagu Burton chain of shops, Hoerner has taken the group out of the red and towards profits of £200 million.

The kitchen-sink write-offs favoured by some incoming rescue

managers have been avoided and there have been no wholesale disposals of brands. Hoerner and his team have gradually rebuilt what was there, turning it into the market place and laying the foundations for future profit growth by moving into areas such as international franchising and mail order.

Only menswear has been recalcitrant in responding to his efforts, but Hoerner is not about to throw up his hands, as Sears has with shoes, and shirk for someone to rid him of the problem: he is, after all, making a profit, albeit small, from the shops. Instead, he is trialling new formats which might have more appeal to the current brand-conscious young men, who seem to feel inadequate if they do not have a polo player or the like riding across their chests.

The move may signal the eventual end of the Burton name on the high street, but not in the stock market.

The analysts who were so quick to show their disappointment yesterday should look beyond the last few gloomy days. The sun will surely shine again and Burton will reap the benefits.

Today Dillon Read, tomorrow...

So SBC Warburg has finally got itself a smart US investment bank to take on the rest of Wall Street, not to mention the world. The partners of Dillon Read have persuaded SBC to overcome its wariness of overpaying for a US prize and the timing of the move looks fine.

Tax-free savings plans are generating huge new business for US fund managers. More important now though is for SBC Warburg to tap into the other lucrative deals for which Dillon Read is noted. These include corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions and US equity and debt underwriting.

But SBC Warburg Dillon Read will be competing with the likes of JP Morgan, Merrill Lynch and Goldman Sachs. Many observers of global investment banking believe there are already too many players on the scene. The Wall Street bubble has been buoyant for a good two or three years and predictions of a serious correction have been made by experts including Alan Greenspan, head of the Federal Reserve.

His forebodings will not have been wasted on SBC, so the purchase of Dillon Read must be seen as merely a step towards accomplishing a grand design. If the predicted crunch comes, it will have a strong US base from which to pick up its competitors at bargain prices. That is the ultimate way to dominate the investment banking world.

Protect APR fools

NIGEL GRIFFITHS was a loud voice speaking out for consumers when he was in Opposition and it seems that he intends to continue in that role as Minister. If he focuses his early efforts on organisations that charge sky-high rates of interest to those who believe that APRs may have something to do with April but no relevance to them, he will find few opponents except those with obvious vested interests claiming that they serve a public need.

MAM warning accompanies £31m increase

By ROBERT MILLER
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

MERCURY Asset Management (MAM) yesterday celebrated ten years as a public company by unveiling a £31 million rise in annual pre-tax profits to £171.3 million. But the gain came with a warning that the exceptional growth rates of the past decade may not be sustainable.

Since 1987, MAM, one of the UK's most successful money managers, has set an impressive track record, with funds under management growing from £2.4 billion to £89.7 billion, a compound annual growth rate of 15.4 per cent. In the past 12 months to March 31, the fund manager has added net new business worth £5.3 billion, with 20 new pension fund accounts being won in Japan.

MAM lifted its final dividend, payable on July 2, to 35p, against 29p last time, making a full-year payout of 45p, against 35p previously. Hugh Stevenson, MAM chairman, ruled out a special share buy-back, which some market analysts had been expecting. The shares, which had risen down 69p to close at £13.72, Mr Stevenson and Carol Galley, MAM's vice-chair-



Galley: collegiate approach

men, emphasised that the past ten years had been an extremely favourable climate for portfolio investment. However, Mr Stevenson added: "Our revenues vary with the levels of the stock and bond markets in which our clients' funds are invested and more than ever it is impossible to

predict the outcome for the coming year."

Ms Galley, in particular, insisted that her successful 200-strong team of fund managers would continue to take a collegiate approach to managing money on behalf of pension funds, retail investors and charities.

The latest results from MAM, which reported a rise in adjusted earnings per share to 63.8p, from 53p previously, included two exceptional items that created a £7.8 million one-off credit. Mercury Bank, a Swiss subsidiary, was sold and the accounts credited with a minimum profit figure of £17.9 million, while an exceptional charge of £10.1 million was made to take account of employers' National Insurance contributions.

Operating costs rose more sharply than previous years to £220 million, from £170 million last time, partly because of investment in computer systems but also because of "higher variable remuneration". The most senior MAM executives are locked in on long-term bonus plans and share option schemes, many of which cannot be exercised for a number of years.

Tempos, page 30

Guinness merger to cost less than £91m

By JASON NISSE

THE cost of the £23 billion merger between Guinness and Grand Metropolitan will be less than the £91 million of fees incurred when Royal Insurance merged with Sun Alliance, Guinness shareholders were told yesterday. In response to questioning from Roger Mead, a Guinness shareholder who attacked "fat cats in the

legal, accounting and banking professions", Philip Yea, the group's finance director, said that the final cost would be "south of" the Royal Sun Alliance figure.

Mr Yea would not give any more details of the expense of the merger at the group's annual shareholder meeting, where Guinness gave warning that the strong pound would reduce this year's profits by £60 million.

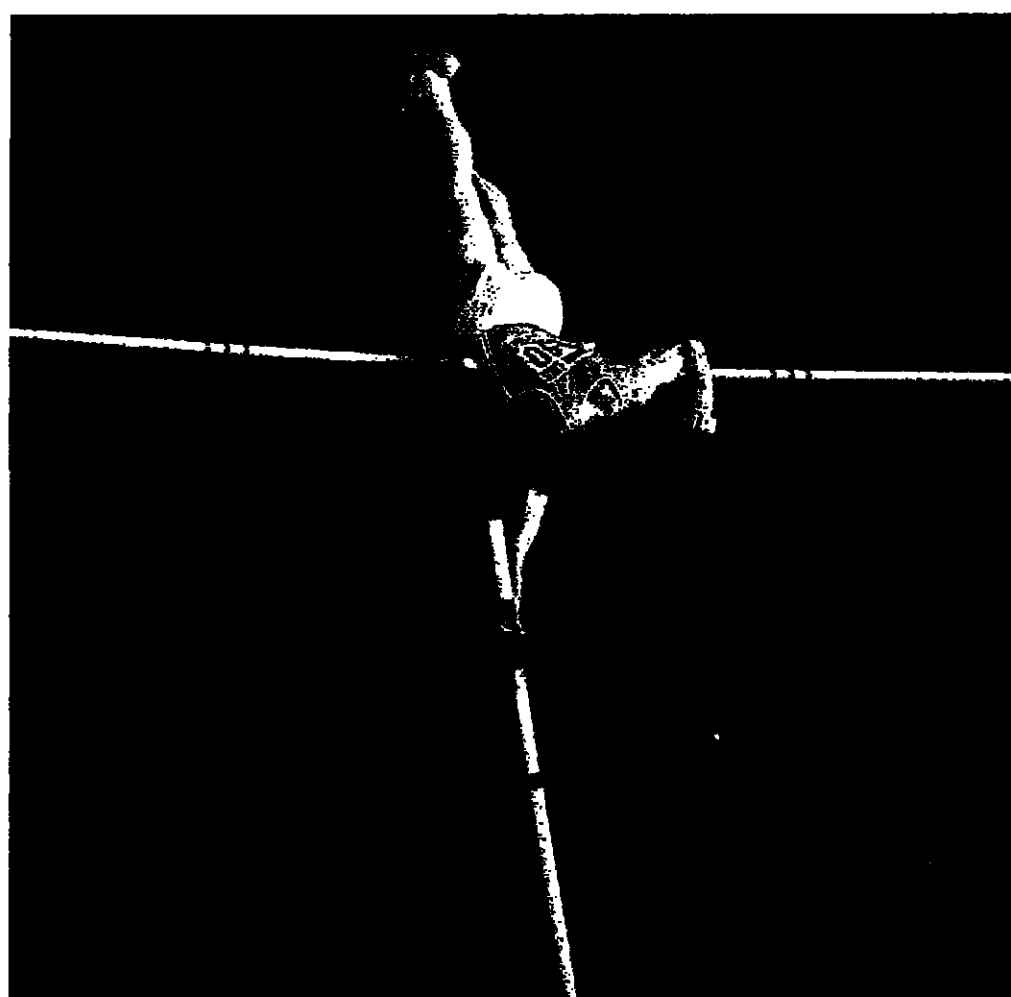
Bernard Arnault, the only Guinness director to oppose the merger, failed to turn up for the meeting. Tony Greener, the Guinness chairman, said that M Arnault had said some months ago that he would not be able to attend because of a conflicting board meeting.

M Arnault is chairman of LVMH-Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, the French drinks group that holds 14.2

per cent of Guinness shares. Mr Yea said that Guinness had been in contact with M Arnault in the past week but there were no plans to meet him before the next LVMH board meeting, early in June. Mr Greener is a director of LVMH.

M Arnault has yet to say whether he will retain his stake in a merged group, although it will be reduced to just 7 per cent.

Most companies already have the means to soar ahead.



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Goldman earns £9m in BP sale

By CARL MORTIMER

GOLDMAN SACHS, the US investment bank, will earn more than £9 million from placing a 3 per cent stake in British Petroleum, part of the 9.5 per cent interest controlled by the Kuwaiti Investment Office.

Goldman's success in securing the £1.2 billion sale mandate will have infuriated UK rivals, which would normally expect to share such lucrative business relating to a blue chip British company.

The share sale was priced at a 4 per cent discount to Wednesday's closing price. Goldman bought 170 million BP shares at 710p and placed them at 716p, a large component ending up in the hands of Goldman's US clients. The whole transaction was completed in about 12 hours and BP's price closed at 724p, down less than 3 per cent.

The KIO sought bids from three parties late on Wednes-

day via an intermediary, believed to be Schroders, the merchant bank. Each of the securities firms approached, including Goldman Sachs, UBS and a consortium of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson and Salomon Bros had to sign confidentiality undertakings.

The shortlist stunned many brokers in the City, as it excluded leading houses such as SBC Warburg and NatWest Securities. Less than two years ago, Warburg was chosen to conduct the sale of the Government's remaining 2 per cent stake in BP.

The KIO acquired a stake of more than 22 per cent in 1987 after the market crash but was forced to reduce the holding to less than 10 per cent after intervention by the UK Government. Yesterday's sale was prompted by concern that the holding was proving too large a part of the KIO's assets.

All-in-one smartcard on its way

By ROBERT MILLER

A CONSORTIUM of eight leading silicon companies and plastic card providers been formed to launch the ultimate smartcard.

Led by Mondex International, MasterCard, Hitachi, Motorola and Siemens, the consortium, known as Maosco, plans to make a card with a special chip that will provide services such as credit, debit and telephone card facilities and season tickets on one piece of plastic.

Nick Habgood, head of Maosco, said that banks were likely to be among the first issuers of the card, which could have services added or deleted as a customer wanted. Until now, multipurpose plastic cards have had to be specially manufactured and could not be altered. The new-style smartcard would make the cost of providing multiple services much cheaper.

Deputy to succeed Hanson



Collins: favourite

CHRISTOPHER COLLINS will succeed Lord Hanson as chairman of Hanson, the former conglomerate now focused on building and construction materials after the demerger of tobacco and energy interests.

Lord Hanson will retire from the board at the end of this year, becoming chairman emeritus. Mr Collins, the deputy chairman, was considered favourite to succeed Lord Hanson but a delay in the confirmation of his appointment raised the prospect of the role going to an outsider. Yesterday Hanson, whose

continuing activities include ARC, the aggregates business, and Hanson Brick, said it was enjoying the benefit of a recovery in UK construction, with price rises and an increase in demand for building materials.

In the six months to the end of March, Hanson earned pre-tax profits of £264.6 million, giving earnings of 32.2p a share. The results included a five-month contribution from The Energy Group, which has since been demerged. In the first half of the previous year profits were £166.2 million, before demerger.

STOCK MARKET

CLARE STEWART

Sale of BP stake sets the tone for a downbeat day

BP oiled the dealing wheels in early trading yesterday after it emerged that the Kuwaiti Investment Office had sold a 3 per cent stake. The news prompted a flurry of activity with about 177 million shares changing hands.

BP also went ex dividend yesterday and its shares ended 20p lower at 724.5p, setting a downbeat tone in the market. A hefty diet of company results and continuing profit-taking gave traders plenty to digest. Shares retreated during the morning and at their worst were 32 points adrift. The FT-SE 100 clawed its way back to end at its best of the day at 4,681.2, down 5.7.

British Gas was cheered higher in anticipation of broker upgrades after upbeat comments on first-quarter figures. BG added 10p to 187.5p with more than a million shares changing hands.

BT moved up 3p to 452.5p, after unveiling pre-tax profits of £3.2 billion and reigniting the debate over the Government's plans to levy a windfall tax. BAA joined the fray, supporting BT in talk of legal moves to avoid the tax. Its shares added 1.5p to 540.5p.

ScottishPower rose to 400p after its results but slipped back to close at 390p, off 4p. National Power held on to its gains and closed at 563p, up 16p, while PowerGen added 8p to 682.5p.

Heavy trading was seen in Amec, the construction group, after Kvaerner sold its 26 per cent stake. The 53 million shares were placed at 140p. Amec closed at 146.5p, up 5p, on volume of 107 million.

Renold Initial, led the FT-SE 100 pack with a rise of nearly 5 per cent. Shares rose 20p to 449p ahead of its annual meeting today.

Among other strong performers in the top 100, Safeway continued to gain ground after Wednesday's good figures, with the shares adding 0.5p to 361p. Rediff and Goldman enjoyed another good day, jumping to a high of 916p, up 11p, in the wake of recent trading comments.

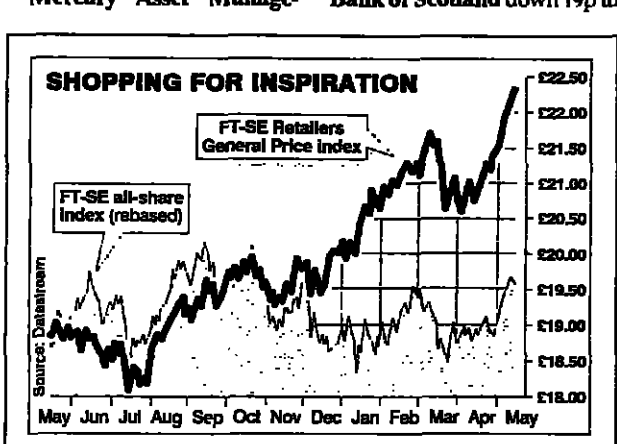
Pearson, the media group, had another bad day, losing 20p to 702.5p, the lowest it has been this year. Zeneca rose 15p to £19.83, after announcing a new link with key DNA research. In addition, Sugen, a company in which Zeneca has a 20 per cent stake, revealed plans for a flotation.

A 30p rise to £12.81 was



Tony Greener, of Guinness, saw the shares end 6p lower

run up by Glaxo Wellcome, after its US business received FDA approval for Zytan, a prescription treatment to help smokers give up. Phytopharm rose 11p to 143.5p on news of its research agreement in Indonesia for treatment of osteoarthritis. Higher first-half sales figures from Therapeutic Antibiotics pushed its shares 8.5p higher to 365p.



Shares in Burton continued their uneven progress as half-year results failed to impress the City. The retailer ended as the worst performer among FT-SE 100 stocks, with a near-6 per cent drop, ending 9p at 145p, the lowest this year.

Burton was not alone among retailers being squeezed. The sector has seen a recent rally but concerns about a further rise in interest rates, and what the Budget may have in store, left a number of groups off colour.

Next, which has its annual meeting today, closed

639p. HSBC fell back 31.5p to £17.88, after weaker Far Eastern markets. Barclays, however, up 12p to £12.65, was sought after.

Concerns over the impact of the strong pound resurfaced to squeeze prices. GKN fell back 28.5p to 937.5p after comments at the annual meeting. Coats Vytella was trimmed 15p to 126.5p after Sir David Alliance, chairman, also gave warning that sterling's strength would affect profits.

Guinness ended 6p lower at 566.5p after its annual meeting also made reference to the effect of the pound, while planned merger partner Grand Metropolitan closed at 566.5p, off 2.5p.

Encouraging comments on trading and a buy recommendation from house brokers SBC Warburg helped to propel shares in Independent Insurance to a new high of 700.5p, up 46p. Independent comments also said the broker which has upgraded its target price to £10 and is forecasting pre-tax profits of £30 million.

Manchester United was in demand with shares climbing 23.5p to 619.5p, while Sheffield United jumped 11p to 64p, ahead of its play-off next week for a place in the lucrative Premiership.

BTR was also in demand, putting on 4p to 219.5p, with more than 18 million shares being traded, while Hanson ended 6.5p lower at 322.5p after reporting a small increase in first-half interim profits.

New issue Newmark Technology rose to a 3p premium at 13p on its first day while AIM-listed Fawcett returned after its recent acquisition to add 3.5p to 50.5p.

Aggregate Industries, also on its first day of trading since its merger, rose 3.5p to 52p. GILTED-EDGED: The gilt market followed the equities, dropping back after failing to respond to inflation figures before rallying in later trading. By the close the June series of the long gilt was down 0.25p at 114.14, an improved volume of 96,000.

Shorts the Treasury 8 per cent 2000 ended down 1/2p at 103.37, while the Treasury 8 per cent 2015 closed down 1/2p at 103.37.

NEW YORK: Wall Street marked its shares and bonds digested economic data. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was ahead 0.82 points at 7,286.98.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones 7286.98 (+0.82)

S&P Composite 650.59 (+0.03)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average 20053.31 (+153.41)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng 14041.90 (+111.68)

Amsterdam:

EEX Index 759.02 (+1.94)

Sydney:

ASX 2528.0 (+5.4)

Frankfurt:

DAX 3562.1 (+11.58)

Singapore:

Straits 2064.74 (+28.52)

Brussels:

General 1272.14 (+24.43)

Paris:

CAC-40 2776.01 (+1.38)

Zurich:

SIX 1050.40 (+1.40)

London:

FT 30 3013.8 (+3.7)

FTSE 100 4681.2 (-5.7)

FTSE 250 4521.9 (-7.4)

FTSE 350 2262.7 (-1.0)

FTSE All-Share 2238.05 (+2.0)

FTSE All-Share 2238.05 (+2.0)

FTSE Non-Financials 2242.02 (+1.1)

FTSE Financials 121.58 (+0.17)

FTSE Govt Secs 97.32 (-0.19)

Barrings

Domestic 147.1

Dragonair 129.4

Heal's 202.5

ITG Group 160

Lady in Leisure 122.5

Longbridge Int 117.5

Mtn Currie & Co 91.5

Newcastle Ltd 121.5

Newmark Tech 13

Northstar Secs 30

Oxford Tech Venture 115

Partners Hedges 172.5

Pentamark (UK) 100

Penta Diamonds 62.5

Penta Diamonds WTS 37.5

Qualcomm (UK) 155.5

Salehurst 121.5

Soccer Investments 106.5

Torch Hides 107.5

Versatile Group 4

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TEMPUS

Cash down the well

SOMEWHERE in the fuss over the demerger and the row with Ofgas, the market forgot that BG owns a few wells in the North Sea. It also owns wells in Tunisia, Thailand and a major gas field in Trinidad. In short, BG is not just a pipeline business with problems.

BG's upstream business is important: it generated £40 million of profit in the first quarter of this year and could be on track to deliver £120 million in a full year. More important still, it is progressing in the natural cycle of any well-managed oil and gas production company. After a period of avid cash-consumption when the company invested in the expensive kit of an offshore oilfield, it is becoming cash generative. First production is expected from the huge Armada field in October, and it is entirely plausible that operating profit from BG's upstream business could be £400 million

in four years time. Cash flow from selling upstream gas will be vital for BG, if it is to show any growth in its dividend, but these results suggest that growth is not just possible but highly probable.

The profitability of Transco remains unknown until the MMC rules on the pricing formula but even on the proposals, Transco's free cash flow, after tax is probably about 5p per share. Meanwhile, the exploration business should be able to contribute about 2p to the dividend, providing investors with 7p.

A conservative valuation of the upstream assets is £100 million, which leaves Transco valued at £7p. Assuming a 5p net dividend on that investment, the yield on Transco is over 7 per cent for a fairly safe but dull utility. The MMC could still do something wild but this looks cheap, indeed.

BT

FORGET the windfall profits tax. There is a chance that BT, which argues convincingly that it is not a utility, will be exempt from Labour's windfall tax or that the charge will be minimal. For BT shareholders, there are more important issues.

The fourth-quarter results reveal that competition and the Ofcom-imposed price reductions are taking their toll. Revenue from domestic calls, for example, declined almost 5 per cent in the quarter while international calls fell almost 16 per cent. As the cable companies expand their networks the trend can only continue.

Hence BT's decision to expand overseas. The strategy is sound, but the chosen route is still questionable. The centrepiece of BT's strategy is its £13 billion acquisition

MAM

THOSE who live off commissions will die with the markets, or at least be a lot worse off if the bulls are no longer pushing the market upwards. Mercury Asset Management gave its investors a healthy reminder that about half of the growth in its funds under management resulted from soaring share prices.

The arrival of a Labour Government seems to have given it pause for thought and, notwithstanding the bubbling FT-SE 100 index, MAM questions whether such growth rates will be maintained.

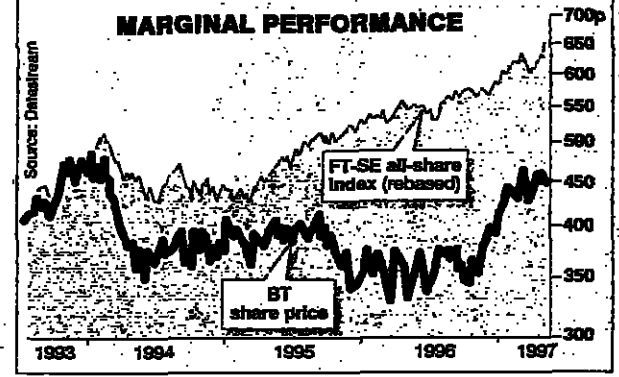
Fund managers who heed this warning should look at their cost base. Bull markets breed such myrmicons as "granular" and MAM whose costs have been rising rapidly will be under pressure to pay more to keep talented younger staff.

Fortunately, MAM has been able to expand its business through its own efforts and, even if the markets do

MAM

not oblige, there is no sign that the flow of funds is drying up. The savings ratio is rising and personal pension provision could become the norm in the not-too-distant future. Top-rated fund managers can only gain in such a world. It is therefore hardly surprising that MAM feels no pressure to trim its plump balance sheet.

On a long view, MAM's expensive shares will do well.



ScottishPower

SCOTTISHPOWER'S byword is prudence. The multi-utility cut more costs than expected when it acquired Manweb two years ago and is likely to produce similar results with Southern Water.

ScottishPower was quick to change the multi-utility strategy, believing that it could get a grip on the nation's homes for the provision of essential services. While others scoffed about the narrow margins involved, ScottishPower ploughed ahead. The Scottish utility's

ScottishPower

slimming diet has worked, but the market will be waiting to see whether the big picture is as impressive: can it turn geographically separate companies into a national utility. ScottishPower now serves one in five UK homes with electricity, gas or water.

Waiting in the wings, we are told, is a marriage made in heaven - a large consumer-based national company prepared to sign an alliance with ScottishPower in anticipation of the day when the domestic energy market becomes a free-for-all.

ScottishPower is being coy about the identity of its partner, but the link could transform energy buying.

ScottishPower has built a solid business, with a huge consumer-based ally it could take a large slice of the domestic energy cake. Its shares are less volatile than many and could have considerable upside if the company achieves a coup.

EDITED BY CARL MORTSHED

COMMODITIES

LIFE

Cocoa

May 1002.512

Jul 1014.017

Sep 1026.105

Nov 1038.107

Mar 1050.109

May 1062.111

Volume: 1154

Robusta Coffee (S)

May 1880.184

Jul 1892.186

Sep 1904.188

Nov 1916.190

Mar 1928.192

May 1940.194

Volume: 794

White Sugar (FOB)

May 300.054

Jul 300.054

Sep 300.054

Nov 300.054

Mar 300.054

May 300.054

Volume: 1423

MEAT & LIVESTOCK

COMMISSION

Average livestock prices at representative

markets on May 14

(p/kg)

Cattle

May 108.58

Jul 108.58

Sep 108.58

Nov 108.58

Mar 108.58

May 108.58

Volume: 890

Pigs

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Jul 108.58

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LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Long Gilt

Previous open interest: 22054

Labour gives up key weapon in fight against joblessness

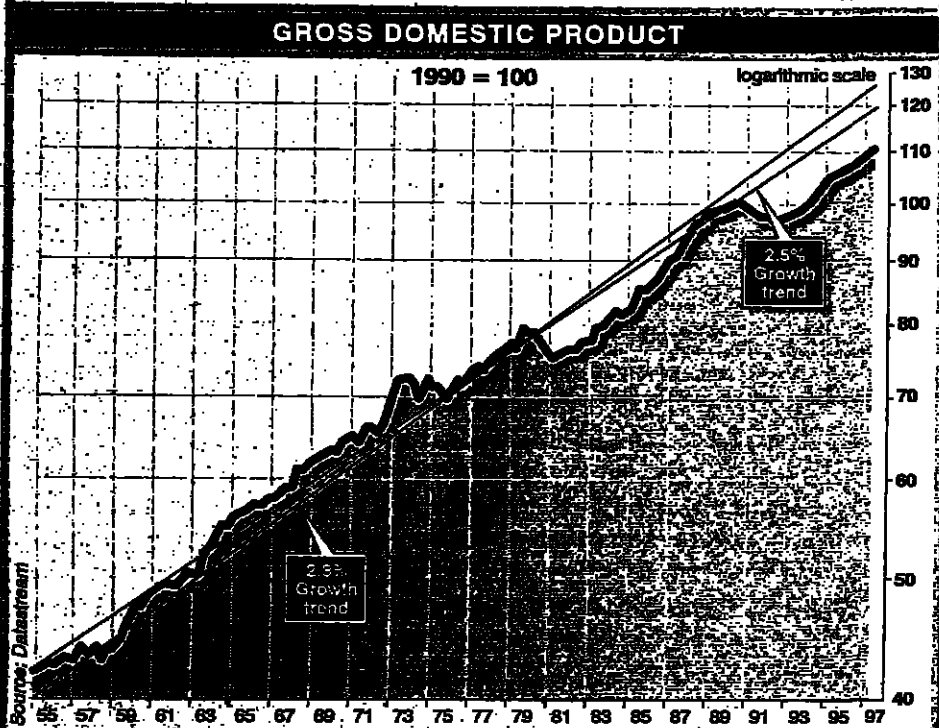
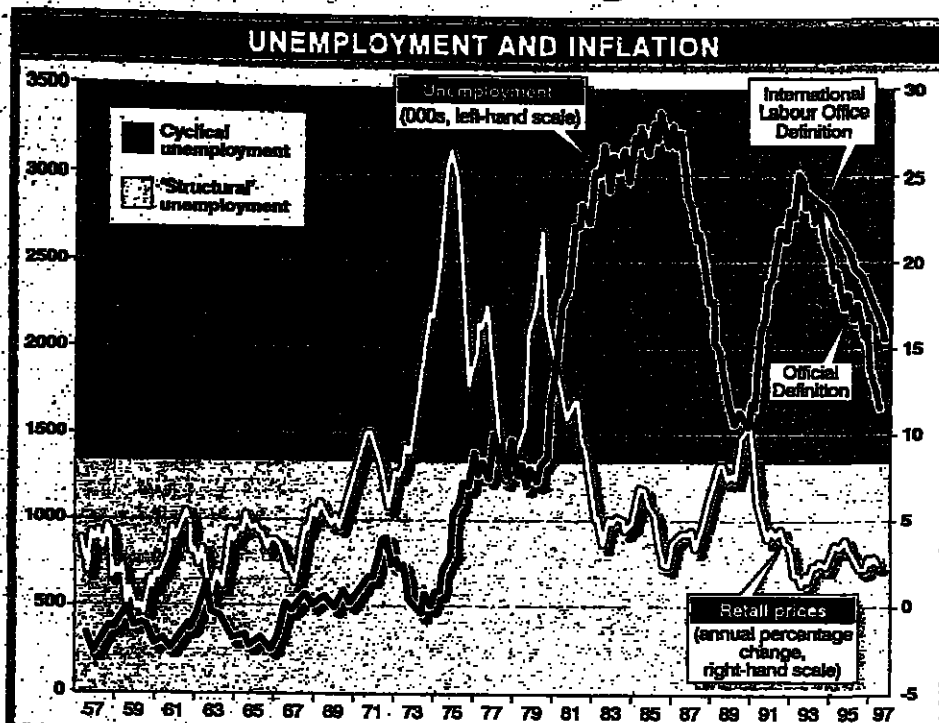
The number of unemployed will rise if demand growth is restrained

What a relief to see a Prime Minister in power who understands that the main purpose of government has nothing to do with economics. Kings, emperors and chieftains were not invented to manage the economy, to set interest rates or to tax and spend. The primary purpose of government was always and still is to create a framework of social arrangements and laws within which the citizens can lead a better, more secure life. The essence of Labour's electoral appeal was Tony Blair's claim that he could change British life for the better without raising taxes or public spending. The Tories, along with most media commentators, declared this to be impossible: more active government without more public spending was an oxymoron. The Queen's Speech on Wednesday should have silenced these materialist cynics. Reforming teaching methods in schools; restoring local democracy to London; devolving power to Scotland and Wales; banning handguns; introducing the concept of human rights into English law: none of these measures will cost much money. Yet they could make more difference to life in Britain than adding or taking a penny off income tax.

But to say that economics is not the essence of government is not the same as saying that governments are immune from the laws of economics. While there is much that a modern government can achieve without touching the economy, all its achievements will turn to dust if the economy goes wrong. So when the Queen came to the new Government's economic proposals all my enthusiasm turned to foreboding and regret.

Labour's biggest and most dangerous economic gamble—giving independence to the Bank of England—was discussed in this column last week. "ut there is an even worse error of omission which sits like a huge vacuum at the centre of Labour's programme, threatening to swallow up all the extravagant hopes raised by Mr Blair. This black hole is the absence of a Labour policy on unemployment."

This Government could have marked a final break with the monetarist orthodoxy which has been responsible for the mass unemployment of the Tory era, an orthodoxy which John Major and Kenneth Clarke, to their eternal credit, gradually abandoned after 1992. (Hearing Mr Major's impassioned and eloquent attack on central bank independence in the Queen's Speech debate almost made me wish



he was again standing on the other side of the aisle). By building on the Major Government's courageous reinstatement of demand management at the centre of economic policymaking in Britain, Mr Blair could have had a real chance to tackle the poverty, crime, social dislocation and educational failure caused by permanent mass unemployment. If he doubts the connection between demand management and his beloved social agenda, Mr Blair should read two highly accessible books published by distinguished neo-Keynesian economists in the past few months—*Full Employment: A Pledge Betrayed* by John Grieve Smith and *How to Save the Underclass* by Robin Marris. For anyone who wants to understand what really caused both the mass unemployment and the social dislocation of the 1980s, these two slim volumes are worth a library full of books about stakeholding, communitarianism and the like.

Yet it seems that the Blair Government has quite deliberately passed up the chance to do anything about unemployment

and the associated social ills. This may sound preposterous. Policies on youth unemployment, welfare, education and training were, after all, the main items announced in Labour's election manifesto and the legislative programme announced this week. The tragedy is that all of the promises to cut dole queues and reintegrate the underclass will only raise expectations that Labour can have no hope of fulfilling as long as it sticks to the economic philosophy espoused by Gordon Brown.

The reforms proposed by Labour—making welfare less attractive, removing disincentives in the tax and benefit systems, retraining the long-term unemployed—are entirely designed to increase the supply of labour. They will do little or nothing to increase the number of jobs available in the economy or labour demand.

This would be fine if the main economic problem today were "structural" unemployment, which persists even when an economy is working at full capacity after many

years of rapid growth. Yet comparisons with the full-employment era of the 1950s and 1960s show that at least a quarter of the present two million plus level of true unemployment is not structural. It is due simply to the fact that demand in the economy has been restrained below its trend rate of growth for the past 20 years (see charts).

The demand for labour will only increase in the context of faster economic growth. But Labour's economic package gives no reason to expect an acceleration of growth. On the contrary, the Bank of England stated explicitly in Tuesday's *Inflation Report* that "action must be taken to slow the pace of expansion" and the querulous Old Lady of Threadneedle Street is now in a position to make good on her threats.

Yes, say Labour spokesmen, but the threat of a monetary tightening only clouds the short-term outlook. In the long-run, better training, combined with the tax changes and other structural reforms to be introduced in forthcoming Budgets will increase the economy's capacity for stable non-inflationary growth for years

ahead. "An explicit objective of a Labour government will be to raise the trend rate of growth by strengthening our wealth-creating base," the party manifesto said.

That is an objective which nobody could disagree with. Unfortunately it begs the question of why Mr Brown is so confident that he can raise the long-term growth trend, an aspiration which has eluded every government in every industrialised country in the past three decades. But even leaving such doubts aside, Labour's fervour for "long-termism" in economic policy raises another more pressing issue: increasing the economy long-term trend growth rate will do absolutely nothing to create jobs for the unemployed.

A nation can increase its rate of growth in one of two ways. If there are large numbers of workers unemployed, output can be raised by demand-management policies to the full-employment or "trend" level, putting the jobless back to work and closing the so-called "output-gap" (see bottom chart). Alternatively, supply-side improvements can conceivably jolt the economy's supply-side from one long-term growth trend into another higher one. If this happens, output, productivity and average living standards can all rise faster than before, year after year.

The second possibility, offering a permanent acceleration of the growth rate, seems infinitely preferable (if it can be achieved) to the first, which implies only a one-off benefit. But is this true? Accelerating the growth trend can certainly benefit the rich, the owners of land and capital, and the workers whose skills are in short supply. For the poor and the unemployed, however, a faster growth in the supply trend can make matters worse. In fact, if demand growth continues to be restrained at the same rate as before, a higher output trend will actually increase unemployment.

The practical upshot of these abstract-sounding arguments should be quite clear. A government whose top priorities are to integrate the underclass, to help the poor and to reduce unemployment must focus on policies to boost demand. The last thing it should do is to hand over the most important lever of demand-management to an independent central bank whose task is to guarantee a low rate of inflation. For the only known way of guaranteeing low inflation is to maintain a large output gap and a large pool of unemployed labour. To put the same point another way, there is only one way of reducing unemployment to the absolute minimum required to keep inflation under control. This is to keep pushing unemployment downwards until inflation starts to accelerate. In other words by taking a calculated risk with inflation. A government and a central bank which refuse to "take risks with inflation" will never achieve full employment. Without risks there are no rewards.

GCHQ move signals mild change in climate for unions

Philip Bassett looks at when the question of recognition is likely to be tackled

Restoration of trade union rights at the GCHQ intelligence centre ends the 13-year ban on union membership at the UK's main spy listening base. Thus the new Government has rapidly righted what Labour has always seen as a wrong.

However, the Government's legislative programme for the new parliamentary session notably did not include proposals for new laws on union recognition. So for business, where does that leave the issue of trade unions?

Yesterday's move by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, brings GCHQ employees into line with Labour's policy. When Tony Blair was Shadow Employment Secretary he scrapped Labour's support for the closed shop, insisting that employees under Labour would have the right to join, or not to join, a trade union.

The GCHQ move may well have few practical repercussions elsewhere, especially for business. But it does carry a clear signal that the climate of public policy in this area, a vital factor in the conduct of employment relations, is now different.

But not yet too different. Significantly, as *The Times* disclosed yesterday, the Prime Minister has already met, without days of taking office, Britain's business leaders, but he has yet to meet formally leaders of the UK's trade unions. And no room was found in the legislative programme outlined in the Queen's Speech to enact Labour's election pledges on employment rights, including the provision for the statutory recognition of trade unions where a majority of the relevant workforce wants it.

In the election campaign, the Conservatives did better than many had expected in raising the old bogey of trade union power. Unlike in 1987 and 1992, when they tried but failed to whip up fears about the unions, their attempts this time were much more successful.

Even so, Labour got into difficulty in the campaign over the issue of union recognition—in part, because it had not thought through properly its policy on it. While Labour's projected timetable for legisla-

tion never included union recognition in its priorities for the first parliamentary session (unlike the minimum wage) the 18-month gap before Labour's next Queen's Speech means that the Government now has a breathing space to work out in detail what its proposals for new union law will be.

But that gap also means that employers concerned about the prospect of recognising unions, some of whom lobbied Labour strongly on the proposals in advance of the election, also have time to regroup. Their campaign is likely to be more forceful than the previous one.

Companies in sectors such as printing and publishing will lobby vigorously, for two reasons. First, many have derognised trade unions, lifting them completely out of their structures. Secondly, in some industries union membership is often a badge of occupational qualification, so many employees remain union members despite derecognition.

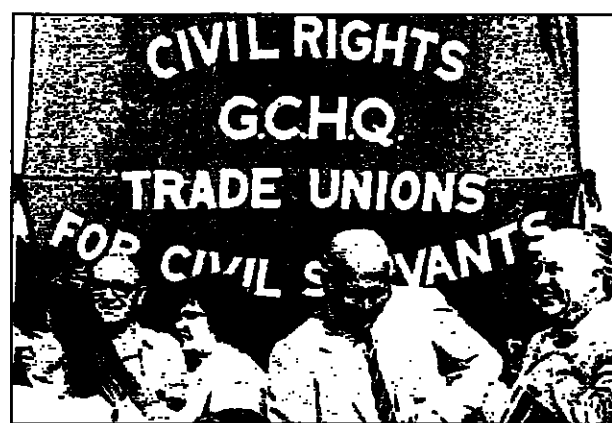
Firms in such sectors may expect to see their employees easily pass the 50 per cent + 1

threshold that would trigger union recognition when Labour's proposals are enacted. Banking, where in the face of large-scale technology-driven job cuts, employees have huddled to unions and staff associations, is a similar area.

Even if the expected lobbying is in vain, declining union membership will mean many companies escape any new provisions. In 1984, when the Conservative Government derecognised unions at GCHQ, union density in Britain, the proportion of the workforce in trade unions, was almost 60 per cent. By last year, it was down to almost half its 1984 level, at 32 per cent. The figure disguises big variations; for instance, a density of 61 per cent among public sector workers compared with 21 per cent in the private sector.

In growth employment areas such as hotels, density was as low as 6 per cent, while among part-timers it is now down to some 23 per cent for women and only 12 per cent for men. With these kind of figures, the number of companies likely to be affected by union recognition legislation when it comes looks set to be small.

Trade union leaders, already buoyed by Labour's election win, were yesterday celebrating GCHQ's reunification. But once the partying stops, even if pro-union laws are enacted the unions will realise that it will be up to them to convince employers and employees of their continuing worth—rather than expecting the Government to do it for them.



Labour always saw derecognition at GCHQ as a wrong

BUSINESS LETTERS

Prospects after demutualisation

From Dr S. J. Jennings
Sir, The point has been well made in recent articles that those building societies and insurers who remain "mutual" will be able to provide better terms for their members than those institutions who demutualise and will need to pay dividends to shareholders. If this proves to be the case, surely most clients will take their business to the remaining "mutuals"? The new Plcs will lose business, dividends will fall and their share prices will decline.

Yours faithfully,
S. J. JENNINGS
The Mount House,
Church Street,
Blackmore,
Essex.

Letters to *The Times* Business section can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

Rubythron and Sunday Business

From Mr Tom Rubythron
Sir, In *The Times* (April 5), it was stated, in an article by Jason Nisse, that I had left the *Sunday Business* newspaper and was involved in relaunching a magazine called *BusinessAge*. Jason Nisse did not speak to me before writing the article and the facts were wholly wrong. I remain editor-

in-chief of *Sunday Business* and have no plans to leave now or in the future. Equally I am prevented by contractual obligations from taking any part in the re-launch of *BusinessAge* magazine and will not be doing so. Yours sincerely,
TOM RUBYTHRON,
3 Cavendish Square, W1.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "SORRY"?

plaintiff n. 1 common domestic argument (it's your turn to wash up: what time do you call this? etc) 2 a person who brings a case against another in court.

fort n. 1 an upmarket pastry case containing lemon, jam etc. (attrib) BBC English 2 a civil wrong other than under contract or equity.

sue n. & v. 1 that Lawley presenter on television 2 term for legal proceedings against a person (usu. foll. by *parts* off).

dispute v. 1 a matter for litigation 2 no it's not 3 oh yes it is 4 I'll see you in court.

lawsuit n. 1 usu. of pinstripe variety 2 corporate nightmare which requires the best possible defence.

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Rotten borough

NEW Labour may have trouble with the House of Lords, but an equally feudal structure closer to home is heading for the chop. No one denies the need for electoral reform in the City. If you live within the boundaries of the Corporation of London you get a vote. If you run a partnership within those boundaries, you also get a vote. Companies, forget it. So some wards are in the pocket of this accountancy firm or that legal practice. The Corporation accepts a reform of the business rate. But even more feudal is the principle that the 25 aldermen can

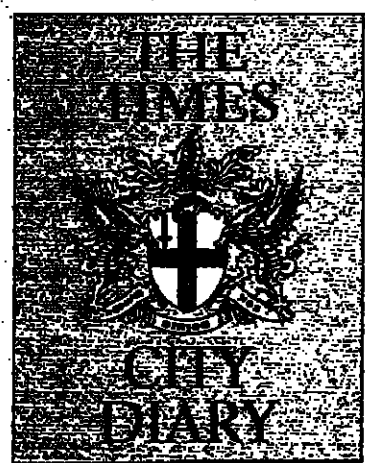
blackball one of their number they do not care for, even if he or she has been properly elected.

Labour thinks this is not on. The Corporation is prepared to consider abolition but only if prompted from outside, even if Michael Cassidy, former head of the policy committee and still a councillor, says it is "totally indefensible". But aldermen, discharging a largely ceremonial role that is still an essential step to becoming Lord Mayor, are keen to keep the right of veto. A pity Labour is unlikely to have such respect for the past.

THE Department of Useless Statistics strikes again: a survey of the nation's shopping habits proves that young people and the employed are keen to spend but two thirds of pensioners never shop until they drop. The cornerstone to this "research", by a bank I am not going to encourage by naming, is that British shoppers "demand value for money".

Green plastic

IN ONE of those minny little gestures that makes you want to go out and chub a few seal pups to death, the Co-op last week launched its own "green" credit card. The new card is biodegradable, which means it will



not lie around in mile-high piles poisoning future generations, because it is 99.9 per cent PVC-free. Now the plastics industry has responded with full-page ads—in *The Guardian* and *The Independent*. Nothing like taking the struggle to the heart of the enemy—defending PVC. But surely the amount of plastic that goes into credit cards is minuscule—less than 0.035 per cent of all PVC production, according to industry figures. "If there's any risk at all and it can be avoided, it might as well be," says the man at the Co-op bank piously.

Life plan

MICHAEL BLOOMBERG is in town to launch his autobiography, *Bloomberg by Bloomberg*, a title that neatly encompasses his world-view.

At the launch party I side cautiously up to the man who was thrown out of Salomon Brothers for being a hard case, an achievement on a par with being expelled from the Serbian army for excessive brutality. He is just ending a hair-raising anecdote about taking a helicopter out of Rome airport and so missing a fatal accident on the next one out, one of a series of near-appointments with his Maker in an active life.

I ask if he has ever thought of slowing down a little. "I've got all eternity to do that"—and tell him I found the book fascinating. It is not the right word. "Fascinating" he examines the term for possible traces of British irony. Someone else tells him the book is wonderful, brilliant, which is more to his taste.

I return home to the dull south London suburbs, feeling I have, briefly, been touched by greatness.

WHERE'S the champagne? was the call at the Guinness annual meeting yesterday. One shareholder accused Tony Greener, chairman, of being parsimonious with the bubbly, quoting from a Guinness promotional brochure: "Throughout the world people are celebrating with Moët et Chandon every moment of every day." So why not now?

Two of a kind

JUST when you thought that pension companies had learnt their lesson about sending untrained salesmen



Michael Bloomberg has all eternity in which to slow down



"It's not the principle, it's the money that counts"

Airbus wins \$1.5bn order from China

By JON ASHWORTH

AIRBUS INDUSTRIE yesterday clinched a \$1.5 billion order to supply China with 30 aircraft, and finalised plans for a new 100-seat airliner, the A321X, to be built in China to supply Western markets.

The agreements were part of a wave of deals to accompany the arrival in Beijing, of Jacques Chirac, the French President, who is making the first visit to China by a French head of state in 14 years. In other signings, the

Civil Aviation Administration of China purchased five ATR-72s and took an option on five more, in a deal worth \$150 million. Eurocopter, the French-German consortium, signed a technology co-operation agreement for the design and manufacture of the rotor to be used for the new Z-10 Chinese helicopter.

French companies were effectively excluded from a host of big Chinese contracts in the early 1990s because of French sales of Mirage-2000 aircraft to Taiwan, which Beijing regards as a renegade province. It was not until January 1994, when the Right came back to power in France, that relations were normalised, allowing French companies to compete easily in the Chinese market once again.

Airbus is to supply ten A320s and 20 A321s to serve the Chinese domestic aviation market, building on an order for 30 A320s that was signed in April 1996. Jean Pierson, the managing director of Airbus, said that the latest order was "a strong vote of confidence" by Chinese customers.

There was widespread interest in the A321X, which will be built in China, but which will predominantly serve North America and Europe. The aircraft's development costs are estimated at between \$1.7 billion and \$2 billion. About 5,400 of the aircraft are expected to be built over the next 20 years.

Airbus Asia, a joint venture between Airbus and Alenia of Italy, will have a 39 per cent interest in a new joint venture company. Aviation Industries of China will have 46 per cent, and Singapore Technologies will have 15 per cent. Engines will be supplied by Snecma, the French aero-engine manufacturer.

China is expected to emerge as the world's fastest-growing aviation market in the next 25 years.

Pensions appeal dismissed

THE Court of Appeal has dismissed the pension rights test case brought by 11 "dinner" ladies that affects 3,000 former part-time employees of Lancashire County Council (Robert Miller writes).

The appeal court upheld a lower court ruling that BET Catering Services, now part of Rentokill, was entitled not to accept the women, who had worked for the council and had been members of the Local Government Pension Scheme, into its company scheme because they earned less than £15,000 a year. The ruling confirms that, under EC law, firms taking over state services, or the assets of a business, need not provide pension benefits for transferring employees.

Sue Tye, of Biddle & Co, the City law firm acting for BET, said: "It will be interesting to see to what extent pressure will now be applied to the new Government to alter the position."



James Dyson, the British inventor, has won awards for his revolutionary Dual Cyclone vacuum cleaner

Amway action over Dyson book

By GUY WALTERS

JAMES DYSON, the award-winning British inventor of the revolutionary Dual Cyclone vacuum cleaner, is beginning to wage a legal battle with an old foe.

Next Monday, in the United States District Court in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Mr Dyson, 50, will defend himself against a preliminary injunction served by Amway, the American corporation.

Amway, which has turned

over of nearly \$7 billion a year, is seeking to prevent Mr Dyson, whose company turns over £100 million a year, from publishing his autobiography, *Against the Odds*.

The reasons date back to April 1984, when Mr Dyson licensed the design and technology of the dual cyclone cleaner to Amway for £150,000. In October 1984, Amway claimed the technology did not work and broke

the licensing deal, accusing Mr Dyson of fraud and misrepresentation. Mr Dyson had to repay the licensing fee.

In 1987, Amway brought out a dual cyclone cleaner of its own. Mr Dyson sued Amway for patent infringement and misappropriation of confidential information.

Although Mr Dyson is not permitted to discuss the settlement, it is believed that he was successful after five years

of litigation, and received millions of dollars.

Amway objects to *Against the Odds* on the grounds that it violates the terms of that settlement and that it deems certain passages to be defamatory.

Mr Dyson said: "I've merely written what happened. I leave it to the readers to judge for themselves. I am also especially surprised as we were gentlemen enough to send the book to Amway in advance to see if they wanted to make any cuts. My legal battles with the corporation are an important part of my life — why shouldn't they be in my autobiography?"

Yesterday, Amway said: "Amway believes that several false statements by Mr Dyson have irreparably damaged our reputation and have been made in violation of his obligations under the settlement agreement. We will vigorously defend the reputation of Amway Corporation."

Kvaerner sells Amec stake

KVAERNER, the Norwegian engineering company, has finally relinquished its stake in Amec, the construction group, almost a year and a half after its £360 million hostile bid for the group was rejected.

Kvaerner said it had sold its 52.8 million shares for almost £80 million, making a £22 million profit on the deal. The

Amec deal and another recent sale means Kvaerner has hit the non-core assets disposal target that it announced after buying Trafalgar House last year.

Amec launched a spirited defence against the approach in December 1995. Although Kvaerner bought 26.1 per cent of its ordinary shares and

secured support from holders of a further 10.4 per cent it fell short of the 50 per cent needed for victory.

After Kvaerner's bid failed, it signalled its intention to sell the holding. Although details of the stake's buyers have not been revealed, it is understood that they went to institutions, not to a single entity.

Rugby chief gets \$700,000 a year to lead Saatchi scrum

Kevin Roberts has a reputation as 'Rambo'. Jason Nisse says

SAATCHI & SAATCHI is to pay Kevin Roberts, its new chief executive, a basic salary of \$700,000 plus a \$100,000-a-year pension as well as bonus payments and share options.

The colourful businessman, recruited by Bob Seelert, chief executive of Cordiant, two weeks ago, is to spend one week a month in New Zealand, while running Saatchi, headquartered in London and New York. The agency is to be demerged from Cordiant this year.

Mr Roberts gave the commitment on New Zealand radio after he was criticised for not being able to fulfil his role as a director of the New Zealand Rugby Football Union, which he has been prominent in shaking up.

A spokesman for Cordiant said Mr Roberts could perform his duties from New Zealand as Saatchi had a substantial operation in the country and the Pacific Rim was important to the advertising network.

David Herro, the Cordiant shareholder who led the revolt to oust Lord Saatchi as Cordiant chairman, said Mr Roberts' contract and working practices were a matter for the company. "It is our policy not to interfere in management issues," he said.

Mr Roberts' contract will be on display when the companies demerge this year. How-

ever, *The Times* has learnt that he will be on a three-year contract that can be terminated with a year's notice, paying a basic wage of \$700,000. He will receive a \$300,000 pension payment after three years and be entitled to join the Saatchi bonus and share option schemes, which have yet to be finalised. Last year, Ed Wax, whom Mr Roberts will replace, received a bonus of 50 per cent of his salary. Mr Roberts told colleagues he was to "hang loose" when he resigned as chief operating officer of Lion Nathan, the New Zealand brewer, last year. A few weeks later, Lion Nathan revealed a 21 per cent drop in profits. He is known in the industry as "Rambo" for an incident that took place when he worked for Pepsi. He took a Coca-Cola vending machine on to the stage at a sales conference and fired at it with a shotgun.

Other famous incidents include the time he dressed in a commando outfit for meetings at Lion Nathan and brought a lion cub to an industry conference. He also masterminded the "World's Largest Barbeque" promotion in Tasmania, which was aimed at boosting sales of Lion Nathan beer brands, including Toohays and Castlemaine XXXX.

Mr Roberts also owns Gauls in Auckland, recently voted New Zealand's best restaurant.



Seelert recruited Roberts

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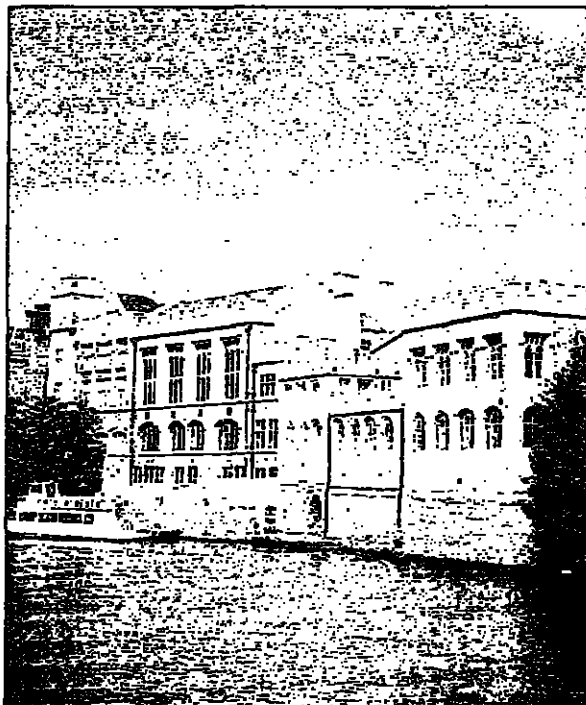
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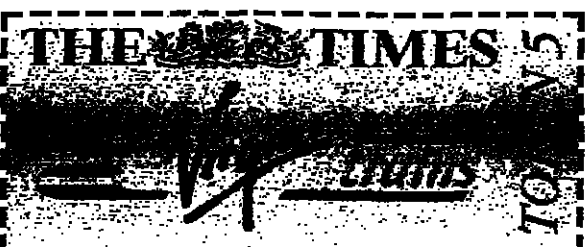
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*Saving compared to 7-day Apex return of £40. **Not available during the bank holiday, August 23-25, 1997. No travel permitted until 10am and between 3pm-6pm Mon-Fri from London Euston. No travel until 10am from Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham New Street, Wolverhampton or intermediate stations to London Euston.



HOW TO APPLY

Collect 10 differently numbered tokens, eight from *The Times* and two from *The Sunday Times*. Applications must be received by first post on June 15, 1997. Only one return ticket per application will be allowed. Unaccompanied children cannot take advantage of this offer. Full terms and conditions will appear again in *The Sunday Times* on Sunday. An application form will appear in tomorrow's *Times*.



Pension funds warn Brown on tax rises

By ROBERT MILLER

CHANGES to the tax regime of pension funds could hit retired people harder than the imposition of VAT on fuel, according to the National Association of Pension Funds (NAPF) whose members look after assets of £370 billion.

In a submission to Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, the NAPF said: "It is not possible to make changes to the tax arrangements for pension funds without adversely affecting millions of people who are saving for their retirement."

Heading the list of NAPF recommendations is the retention and restoration of advance corporation tax (ACT). The 20 per cent ACT levy, reduced from 25 per cent by Norman Lamont when he was Chancellor, has been mooted as a possible target for Mr Brown's first budget.

Occupational and company pension funds enjoy an exemption on ACT, which is a tax on dividends, because pensioners pay tax when they receive their pensions. The NAPF has argued that to reduce or abolish the ACT

exemption would be a form of double taxation on ten million people's retirement funds.

The Association of British Insurers reacted to growing speculation that insurance premiums tax could be raised in Gordon Brown's first Budget. In its submission, the body which represents the insurance industry said the rumoured rise threatened "prudent protection".

It is thought that Mr Brown

could be contemplating a rise from 4 per cent to 12.5 per cent, raising an average £88 from every household and a total of £2.5 billion for the Exchequer.

Mark Bolat, the ABI's director-general, said: "IPT hits hardest those in the poorer sectors of the community who can least afford to suffer an unexpected loss." He called for no Budget change and said the tax should be repealed when the public finances permit.



Mark Bolat says IPT hits the poor hardest

Gas customers may have leaked to rival in error

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

UP TO 19,000 customers may have been switched from British Gas to a rival supplier without consenting, it is claimed.

The customers are at the centre of a dispute between British Gas Trading and Eastern Natural Gas, which last night met at the offices of Ofgas, the industry regulator, to debate the matter.

BGT claims that as many as 19,000 customers may have not agreed to switch supplier to Eastern, part of The Energy Group, after being caught up in a doorstep campaign criticised by Ofgas. However, those customers have been put into the transfer system and will soon get exit letters from BGT. Eastern has de-

nied any evidence of involuntary transfer.

The incident is a repeat of confusion when domestic competition in gas opened in southwest England last year. Then, many customers complained that they had not meant to leave British Gas and had been confused by sales tactics of new companies.

An Ofgas spokesman accused BGT of jumping the gun in claiming up to 19,000 mistaken transfers. He said: "We need to resolve this as neatly as possible and it seems premature of BGT to quote figures when nothing is established."

The dispute concerns Eastern marketing in Dorset, Avon and Sussex. Eastern has been rebuked by Ofgas for its sales methods and has agreed to revisit customers who had said they would switch to ensure they meant to. Of 38,000 customers in question, Eastern is said to have told BGT that 19,000 are positive transfers. However, BGT said that Eastern has kept the other 19,000 on the transfer list and has since said that 3,700 do not want to move. BGT says this casts doubt on all 19,000.

Eastern said: "The 3,700 figure is just an estimate of those who don't want to move over. We are processing details all the time so we don't have a final figure, but we have no evidence of involuntary transfers."

Interflora board seeks comeback

By FRASER NELSON

THE ousted board of Interflora, the bouquet delivery network that was taken over by a band of rebel florists last weekend, is planning a comeback using the same mechanism that led to its downfall.

Supporters of the old board, who were voted out by a tiny majority at an emergency meeting on Sunday, have gathered 400 signatures from florists who are demanding a comprehensive vote to decide the company's future.

The rebels came to power on the strength of turnout at Sunday's meeting, which accepted no proxy votes. A postal vote seeking a mandate from the association's 2,800 members will almost certainly overturn the rebel victory.

The old board was ejected over plans to change the structure of the association by hiking up subscription charges and lowering transaction charges. The rebels argued that this would disadvantage small sellers, and also claimed the association was moving towards demutualisation and a stock market flotation.

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Receiver sells part of shoe firm to managers

By Jason Nisse

THE receivers of Chamberlain Phipps, the shoe-maker, which collapsed last August just two years after its flotation, have sold the last remaining business from the group, its materials operation.

The Leicester-based business was bought by a management team, augmented by the recruitment of John Fallon, former finance director of British Shoe Corporation, and backed by finance from Lloyds TSB.

A price was not disclosed, but Simon Allport, the Arthur Andersen partner who is joint receiver, said that there will not be enough money left from all the disposals to pay unsecured creditors when the group is liquidated, which will be in the next few months.

The secured debtors, mainly Bank of Scotland and Credit Lyonnais, were owed £35 million at the time of Chamberlain Phipps's collapse.

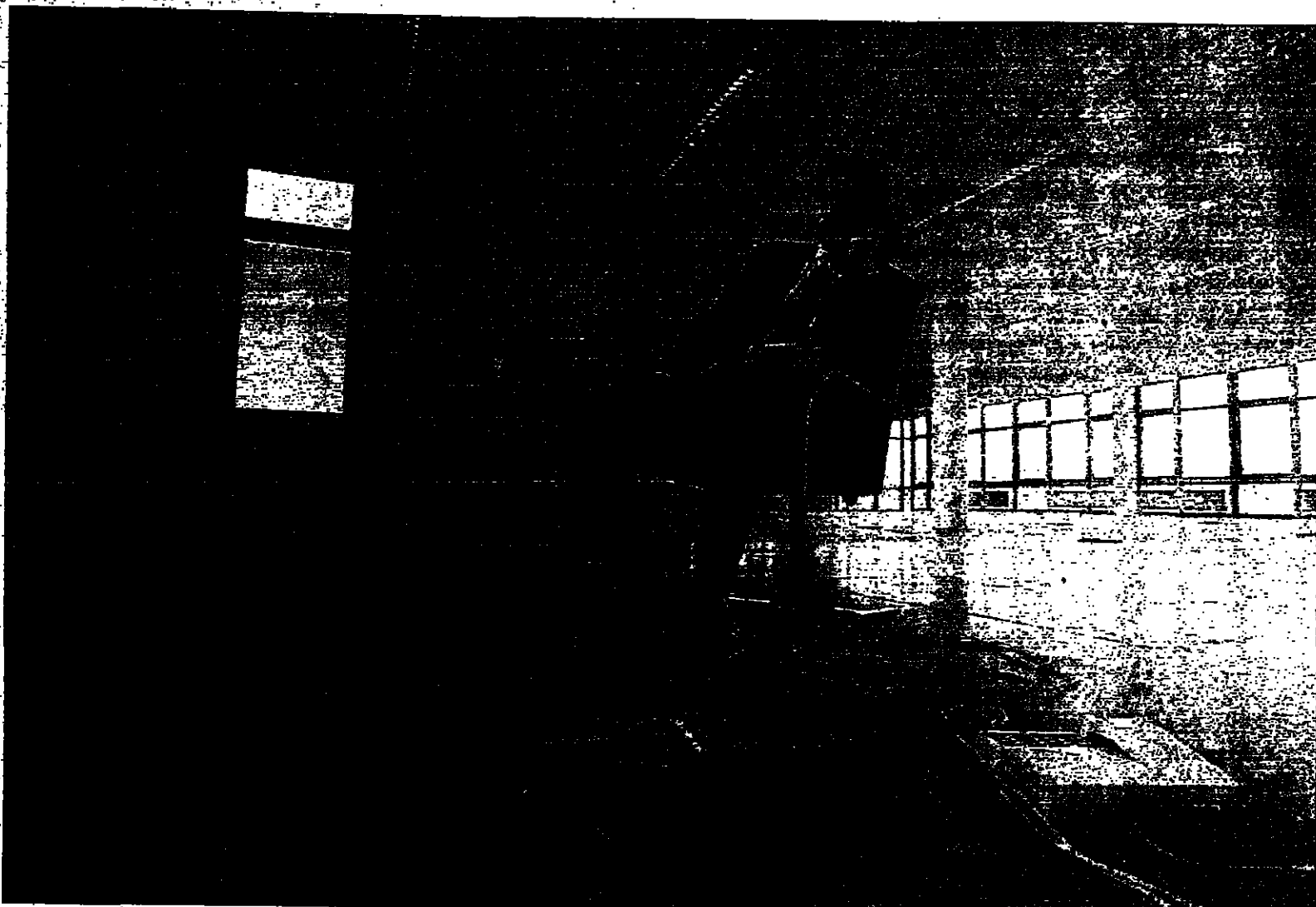
The shoe group had floated with a market value of £74 million in 1994. It was chaired by Don Sullivan, a US investor who had invested £3 million in the business in 1991.

In the two years between the float and the receivership, Mr Sullivan received £1.7 million from share sales, £892,000 in dividends and £615,000 in salary. In addition, companies in which he was a partner were paid £1.66 million finder's fees for acquisitions made by Chamberlain Phipps.

Arthur Andersen has sent a report to the Department of Trade and Industry about the conduct of the Chamberlain Phipps directors, but the accountants would not say what the report concluded.

Mr Fallon, who has become managing director of the newly sold business, Chamberlain Phipps Materials, said that it could float on the stock market in two or three years' time. "That is one option we will be looking at, another could be a trade sale," Mr Fallon said.

He added that the business, which largely makes soles and heels for shoes, had stood up well in spite of the receivership. "Our customers want reliable supplies and they become concerned about this when there is a receivership," he said.



Keith Whitson, chief executive, said that Midland had decided to put Edinburgh on line because of the quality of its people and premises

Compass turns to sports clients in £11m purchase

By Adam Jones

COMPASS, the international catering group, yesterday added Wembley stadium and the Oval cricket ground to its list of sporting clients. The company already has contracts for Ascot racecourse and Twickenham.

The £11 million purchase of National Leisure Catering, a specialist sports caterer, came as the company announced interim results and a confident prediction of continuing growth.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to March 30 rose 18 per cent to £56.4 million, in

accordance with analysts' expectations.

In the same period last year, the group earned £67.8 million, but this was distorted by a one-off £20 million profit on the sale of Compass's health-care division.

Turnover rose from £124 billion to £172 billion. New UK catering contracts included British Nuclear Fuels, a deal worth an extra £2.2 million in annual turnover. Siemens and the Belfast Waterfront Hall, a new concert venue.

Overseas, the company se-

cured a catering contract worth £6.6 million in turnover at Louisiana State University in the US, serving 26,000 students. Profits in America were 20 per cent higher at £17.8 million.

Roger Matthews, managing director, said: "We are basically very confident of continuing our underlying growth rate."

Turnover has grown eightfold since 1992. The company said the trend in outsourcing catering requirements shows no sign of ending.

Francis Mackay, chief executive, said performance would

not be significantly affected by the new UK Government's commitment to a minimum wage.

Mr Mackay said only 20 per cent of group business came from the UK. He said in many of these cases, labour costs were met directly by the client company. He said wages were in the upper quartile for the industry.

National Leisure Catering was bought through Letheby, Compass's wholly owned subsidiary. Mr Mackay said the company wanted to create a family environment at Wembley stadium that would draw visitors outside match days. The deal includes catering for the arena and conference centre.

Compass recently acquired the catering contract at the new French national football stadium, which is being built for the 1998 World Cup. It has a number of other contracts with football clubs, including Paris St Germain, Monaco, Tottenham Hotspur and Arsenal, spanning corporate hospitality and food for the ordinary fan.

An interim dividend of 3.1p (2.75p) is due for payment on August 26. The shares fell 4 1/2 p to close at 657 1/2 p.

Midland to call up 600 for new jobs

By Our City Staff

MIDLAND BANK is to create up to 600 jobs in Scotland with the opening of its fourth telephone banking call centre.

Some 200 people will be recruited for the new Customer Service Centre, at Lochside Court on the Edinburgh Business Park, this year, with the remaining 400 more posts to be filled when the site is fully occupied in 1998.

The bank said that it was expanding from its two sites in England and one in Wales to cope with increasing demand. It also announced plans to extend its telephone service to handle calls seven days a week.

The news follows plans announced last month by Midland's First Direct division to create up to 5,000 jobs in Scotland over seven years with a new call centre at Hamilton, Lanarkshire.

Keith Whitson, Midland's chief executive, said that Edinburgh had been chosen because of "the quality of the local people and the premises".

Midland handled nine million calls last year and expects to handle 16 million this year. Its existing centres at Hemel Hempstead, Leeds and Swansea take more than 80,000 calls a day, and the additional capacity from Edinburgh will free up time to introduce additional services.

Lonrho takes £15m exploration charge

LONRHO, the UK conglomerate, is taking a £15 million charge in its half-year figures to cover exploration costs for its Amantaytau gold project in Uzbekistan. Lonrho does not expect to incur further significant costs on Amantaytau after the completion of its six-month review of the project, which has more than five million ounces of gold reserves. The company said: "The review demonstrated that there had been a substantial increase in both capital and operational costs and a resultant reduction in the projected return."

The company said that neither it nor Anglo American Corp of South Africa, its partner, was prepared to take the project forward on that basis. "Lonrho remains interested in the project and is co-operating with the Uzbek Government and other potential partners with the objective of establishing a basis for the commercial development of Amantaytau," the company said.

De La Rue acquisition

DE LA RUE, the company with a licence to print banknotes, continued its expansion into "smart-card" technology with the purchase of Philips Cartes et Systemes (PCS), a subsidiary of the Dutch electronics group, for £54.2 million. PCS was originally the product of a 1993 joint venture between De La Rue and Philips, and the two firms will continue co-operating on applications. PCS will change its name to De La Rue Card Systems.

Woodchester interest

WOODCHESTER, the Irish financial services group, said that there had been "a strong level of interest" from potential buyers of the 51 per cent interest in the company held by Credit Lyonnais. Bidders from Britain, America and continental Europe have been invited to conduct due diligence reviews. The successful bidder will be obliged to make an offer for the rest of the company. Yesterday Woodchester announced the £12.6 million purchase of Vendal, a Portuguese finance business.

Ferguson back in black

SHARES in Ferguson International bounced from their all-time low yesterday as the labels manufacturer said that it had returned to the black after selling its clothes hanger and electronics businesses. Although turnover fell to £150 million, from £207 million, in the year to February 28, the company earned pre-tax profits of £10.6 million (losses of £1.11 million), helped by the receipt of £10.3 million from the disposals. The shares, which had fallen from 238p this year, rose 15p to 200p.

J Bibby advances 13%

J BIBBY & SONS, the industrial and materials handling group that is the subject of a £315 million takeover bid by South Africa's Barlow Industrial group, said pre-tax profits rose 13 per cent to £21.4 million in the half year to March 29. Earnings were £0.29p a share (6.51p). There is no interim dividend, but a special dividend of 5p a share is due on completion of the agreed bid. Barlow, which already owns 78.8 per cent of Bibby, is offering 195p a share, including the special dividend.

Alvis slips to £3.1m

ALVIS, the manufacturer of defence equipment, blamed a decline in pre-tax profits to £3.1 million, from £5.1 million, in the half year to March 31 on a slowdown in deliveries of armoured vehicles. That had reduced turnover to £31.2 million, from £55.1 million previously. Nick Prest, chief executive, said that sales would improve in the second half, with a further increase next year. Earnings fell to 2.6p a share, from 6p. The interim dividend is lifted 25 per cent, to 1.25p a share.

Clubhaus to expand

CLUBHAUS, the golf course operator, is acquiring four more golf courses in southern England. It is paying about £10.25 million for three Essex clubs, in Romford, Cold Norton and South Wickham, and one in Bournemouth. The purchase is being funded from the proceeds of a £15.7 million placing and open offer of new shares at 82p each. Existing Clubhaus shares fell 1p to 86 1/2 p yesterday. After the acquisition Clubhaus will own 11 golf clubs in England and three in continental Europe.

NAB warning hits shares

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

NATIONAL Australia Bank, the country's biggest bank, accompanied a 14 per cent rise in half-year profits to A\$1.14 billion (£540 million) yesterday with a warning that it faced "unrelenting" competition in all of its markets, which would place increasing pressure on its ability to sustain record profits.

The warning, just a day after Westpac, a competitor, said constant pressure on its mar-

gins may affect its second-half performance, sent a shudder through the Australian banking sector, pushing the sector index down more than 1 per cent on the stock market.

Shares in National Australia Bank, which owns Yorkshire Bank, Clydesdale Bank, Northern Bank and National Irish Bank in Britain and Ireland, fell 23 cents to A\$18.11. NAB's profit increase was

helped by a strong performance from its UK and Irish operations, where profits rose 33.5 per cent to A\$215 million.

Don Argus, managing director, said profits had been helped by cost reductions at Yorkshire and Clydesdale, an increase in income from mortgage and term lending at Northern Bank and a fall in bad-debt charges at Northern and Yorkshire Bank.

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Shares claw back lost ground

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BANKS			
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BREWING, PUBS & REST			
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DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS			
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RETAILERS, FOOD			
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RETAILERS, GENERAL			
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WATER			
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■ MUSIC 2

Peter Maxwell Davies's opera *Resurrection* gets its first British staging, thanks to Glasgow's Mayfest

■ MUSIC 3

**Franzita Whelan's
Katya Kabanova
is one of the
highlights of
the National Opera
Studio's showcase**

■ TOMORROW

**Jenny Eclair leads
a West End revival
of the all-female
comedy *Steaming*.
read Benedict
Nightingale's view**

MUSIC: The conductor who is aiming to give Glyndebourne a *Manon Lescaut* in the best possible taste; plus reviews

Rodney Milnes talks to John Eliot Gardiner about his Glyndebourne debut and the challenge of Puccini

So how does Puccini? It was an invitation that I accepted. I'm thrilled that I could be *Manon Lescaut*. Puccini lavished more care and more love on every detail of that score than on any other of his operas, and his ebullience and youthful enthusiasm are also more in evidence than anywhere else. It is only his third opera, and some think of it as Puccini's *Idomeneo*, an early work on which the composer lavished every aspect of the first full flush of his genius in an almost undisciplined fashion, with results unimpressed in later, more mature and 'respectable' pieces. During orchestral rehearsals, Gardiner was high on the vivid colours of the

One thing that especially delights Gardiner is "the way the orchestra bears the brunt of the melodic continuity, with the singers dipping in and out of that melody, like aircraft coming through and out again in clear skies and then going back again." I suppose then this could be attributed to Wagner, but it's not Wagnerian, and while there are some post-*Tristan* sonorities, they aren't those haunting Wagnerian sonorities. It's very honest, very upfront, directly emotional music without any slop. It's emphatically not "symphonic music." Wagner, it gradually emerges, is a very dirty word in Gardiner's book. One composer he swears he will never ever conduct.

John Eliot Gardiner: "Once

In pursuit of the anti-slop principle, Gardiner has as his bible a book by the legendary Luigi Ricci, Puccini's *maestro di canto* who worked on productions with him and survived well into the 1970s.

"He maintained that the performance practice that grew up after the composer's death did not carry

his sanction, and wrote down a detailed analysis of everything that Puocini said and did over and above the actual notation that we've inherited. Included are ten commandments, three of them insisting on good taste, avoidance of self-indulgence and, above all, avoidance of any vulgarity." Tasteful

self-appraisal, you have to chuc

instinct is to do such and such, you have to make sure that the evidence emanating from the page is not contradicting you. Once you've gone through that process of self-appraisal, you have to chuck it away and just *do* the piece. The last thing it's got to be is cerebral."

In the middle of the rehearsal

his best behaviour. "I'm very much of a guest conductor. It's not my 'show.' He is used to everything, and he's enjoying his show, and relishes the prospect of a five-year residency at the Châtelet in Paris with his old-time Lyons colleague Jean-Pierre Brossman. That will start in 1999, with *Glück (Orfeo and Alceste)* in break in 2000 when he spends a year conducting every single one of each church cantatas, resuming with *Vespers (Matagosa)* in 2001, followed by *Tristano e Isolotta*, *Beaucaire* and *Reneau* back-to-back in 2002, and climax with *The Trojans* in 2003. In the context of such broad taste and diversity, why shouldn't Puccini get a look in?

● Marion LeMay acts at Glyndebourne on May 13 (02) 273 138131

Peter Maxwell Davies's opera, *Resurrection*, has taken a long time to reach the stage, and so it is not too surprising to find that the work already appears dated. Conceived in 1963, it was actually composed only shortly before its premiere in Darmstadt in 1968, and has finally reached as thanks to the Glasgow Mayfest and a co-production between the Vienna Fockel Opera and the Finnish Muziektheater Transparant.

The show, fresh from Vienna, Amsterdam and Antwerp, is the first to be presented in its original English version, and given the multinational cast, words came across well. They are not supposed to make perfect sense, however, although

under much surface doggerel, they are obscure references to serious writings. Indeed, the underlying tone of the work is that of the Glasgow Davies dresses up his social criticism as black comedy.

The idea for *Resurrection* came to him when he was working on his first opera, *Tower*, which revealed how, through interrogation, the 16th-century composer Taverner was reduced to a puppet. The "here" of the later opera, or masque, as Maxwell Davies calls it, is a dreamy world of the senses, a sound-space and family portrait in which the characters of his are all dissolved in the prologue, which ends with him expounding under the weight of everyone's hypocrisy. In the main act, surgeons try to correct his political,

religious and sexual "irregularities", but things go wrong and he is resurrected as the Antichrist, uttering warnings of the apocalypse.

With the help of a dancing cat as jester, slapstick sketches, cabaret acts, tap-dances and a series of 24 TV "commercials", Maxwell Davies ticks a snook at every corner of the Establishment. He creates a world in which connections with reality are tangential, in which television "breaks" become more "real" than what is happening on stage. His brilliant, mercurial

Peter Bergamin conducted with flair and feeling for the music. In multiple roles, Ines Casarow, Jan Lund and Willfried van den Brande gave the most complete performances, though Roland Persell, Jeremy Fick and Conor Briggs all had their moments. Paul Zacharaides, counter-tenor in drag, would have improved his larger-than-life characterisations with clearer words.

Why did it not quite work? The audience hardly mustered a laugh, and nobody seemed shocked by the anarchy of what was originally intended as an operatic hand grenade.

The staging by Leo Krischke and Leo Verhaeren, in versatile designs by Tonu Heinen, from the 70s and 80s flavour of the score. *Resurrection* tackles issues that remain with us, and a more up-to-date production might have helped.

JOHN ALLISON

With the shockwaves from Covent Garden reverberating, the air was even thicker than usual for the annual gathering at the National Opera Studio's end-of-year showcase.

This year there was all too little on stage to transcend the all-enveloping gossip in the auditorium. The evening's traditional succession of operatic tableaux obviously has to be chosen with casting requirements as much as audience entertainment in mind. So it seemed all the more perverse to cast Handel's Giulio Cesare as a baritone when Jacob Zeithner-Möller's voice was neither temperamentally nor technically suited to the role.

The sequence of extracts also poses a considerable challenge to the evening's director and designer. Although Allison Nalder's simple set of grey pillars formed a serviceable frame for the washing lines, counterpanes and garden seats which set the scene for the likes of Smetana, Janáček and Massenet, Nicole Molnar's production work was stiff and stagey.

Singers of real promise, though, can rise above it all and, with the support of the *Bournemouth Sinfonietta* con-

ducted by Roy Laughlin, there were one or two who did. Franziska Whelan from the Royal College is developing apace. On Wednesday her Katya Kabanova did, indeed, take wing: there is a bright new flare at the top of her soprano, well integrated with its increasingly focused and expressive middle and low registers. Her sister-in-law, Varvara, was sung briefly but eloquently by Hilary Taylor who was to return as a touching Massenet Manon.

In the unlystish *Giulio Cesare* extracts, the voices of mezzo-soprano Marianne E. Andersen and Johanna Byrne stood out. Byrne returned as a powerful Kate in the evening's strongest scene: from Act II of Britten's *Owen Wingrave*. Barton Timothy Bill, in the title-role, sang his monologue of self-discovery with clarity and intelligence, close-focusing the power of this still underrated opera.

HILARY FINCH

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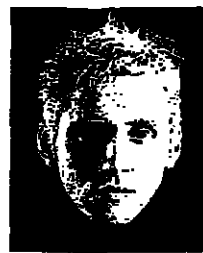
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POP 1

There is a great record struggling to get out of Michael Jackson's latest, *Blood on the Dance Floor*



POP 2

The hard-rocking Glaswegian outfit known as Gun reinvent themselves as the sexy dance-pop G.U.N.

THE ARTS



POP 3

Dark and sleazy: New York's Royal Trux travel into the outer reaches with their new release, *Sweet Sixteen*



POP 4

Their songs are cute and clever. But it's not enough to ensure success for Salad's second album, *Ice Cream*

New ways to take the Michael

POP ALBUMS: David Sinclair is largely taken by the King of Pop's dancefloor reworking of songs that made *HiStory*

MICHAEL JACKSON
Blood on the Dance Floor — *HiStory in the Mix* (Epic 487500, £13.99)
IF ANYONE has earned the right to benefit from the vogue for recycling perfectly good songs as dance remixes it is Michael Jackson. With his uncanny feel for the rhythmic dynamics of modern American pop, he did as much as anyone in the 1980s to lay the foundations of latterday urban dance music.

Even so, you cannot help feeling a bit uneasy about *Blood on the Dance Floor*, an album consisting mostly of remixes of tracks from his most recent album *HiStory*, which was itself a questionable combination of old hits and new songs.

Before the remixes, however, there are five completely new songs on *Blood on the Dance Floor*, beginning with the title track. With his voice little more than a squeaky whisper for most of the verse, and the groove screwed to a very high torque, this is as lean and urgent a piece as Jackson has ever come up with.

The ensuing numbers, including *Morphine*, with its dark, industrial rhythm, and *Ghost*, with its appropriately spooky techno beat, maintain a fierce tension while the lyrics paint an extraordinary picture of a man beset by a host of demons and neuroses, a disaffected figure seemingly adrift in a world full of unexplained and hostile forces.

This is powerful stuff from the King of Pop, and the mood holds good during *Scream Louder* (*Flyte Tyne Remix*), a fiddly but funky remake of his *Scream* duet with

sister Janet. But from there things become less engaging. Several of the slower numbers from *HiStory* get spliced to a pounding dancebeat, with mixed results. *Stranger in Moscow* is adroitly turned into a jaunty romp somewhat at odds with its poignant lyric, while the Euro-techno version of *Earth Song* and a handbag/house arrangement of *You Are Not Alone* both sound utterly ridiculous (echoes here of the notorious disco remix of Madonna's *Don't Cry for Me Argentina*).

There is a great record struggling to get out of *Blood on the Dance Floor*, suggesting that the sooner Jackson bites the bullet and gets around to making a genuine new album, the better.

G.U.N.
041 632 632b (A&M 540 723, £12.99)
EVEN when they were a respectable hard rock band called Gun, this Glaswegian outfit was never entirely convincing. Now, thanks to a sleight of hand in the graphics department and some hands-on production from Andrew Farris of INXS, they have re-emerged as sexy dance-pop kids G.U.N., and the game is most definitely up.

For, although G.U.N. have a friendly, aspirational feel about their look and sound, the lack of core values in the trio's music stands cruelly exposed on the snappily titled *041 632 632b*.

With its clichéd lyrics — "She's only seventeen/And she don't care where she's been", that kind of thing — and tunes shackled to a rhythm section that is as funky and



Michael Jackson's *Blood on the Dance Floor* is a collection of new songs and new takes on old ones that falls short of greatness

flexible as an ironing board, this is an album that exists for no other reason than to make G.U.N. nearly famous again. A nice try, but it is not to be.

Taking the sleazy raunch of the Rolling Stones as their starting point, along with echoes of 1960s progressive bands such as Jefferson Airplane, especially during the long guitar work-out on *Golden Rules*, Herrema and Hagerty add a vampiric, junkie/bohemian touch that sends the music of Royal Trux slouching further "out there" than any of their garageband peers.

There are some fine songs here, although the sound of their raddled voices, intertwined throughout like snakes in a pit, will probably scare off as many listeners as it attracts. That certainly seems to be the idea of the sleeve, a picture of a blocked lavatory that is the most grotesque

piece of album artwork it has been my misfortune to see.

SALAD
Ice Cream (Island 524370, £13.49)
PERSEVERING with their food theme, indie-pop hopefuls Salad release *Ice Cream* exactly two years after their first album, *Drink Me*. With their breezy sound and glamorous Dutch chanteuse Marjine

Compact discs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

van der Vlugt, you would think they would be on the fast track to the top, or at least somewhere close to the constellation of stars comprising groups such as Elastica, Sleeper and Echobelly.

But as well as being cute and clever, Salad's songs are also desperately elusive entities that frequently chop and change direction in a rather juvenile attempt to sound more arty and meaningful than they are. It is all quite pleasant on the ear but, even after three or four listens, you would be hard pushed to hum one of the choruses. And that, ultimately, is what the success of a group such as Salad depends on.

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- (1) *Spice*.....Spice Girls (Virgin)
- (2) *Flaming Pie*.....Paul McCartney (Parlophone)
- (3) *White on Blonde*.....Texas (Mercury)
- (4) *Tellin' Stories*.....Charlatans (Beggars Banquet)
- (5) *Blood on the Dance Floor*.....Michael Jackson (Epic)
- (6) *Republica*.....Republica (Deconstruction)
- (7) *The Colour and the Shape*.....Foo Fighters (Roswell)
- (8) *Travelling Without Moving*.....Jamiroquai (Sony)
- (9) *In It for the Money*.....Supergrass (Parlophone)
- (10) *Shelter*.....Brand New Heavies (FFRR)

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Figure in brackets denotes last week's position

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Classics chopped and channelled

STEVE SWALLOW
Deconstructed (KtraWATT/9 537 119-2)
AS implied by both its title and cover picture (in which bassist Steve Swallow appears neatly disassembled), *Deconstructed* concerns itself with how jazz standards are put together from the harmonic schemes of popular songs. Ten of Swallow's Tin Pan Alley favourites have been moulded by him into clean-sounding, brisk quintet workouts in styles ranging from bop through Latin to the blues. Although Swallow has assembled an unfussily virtuosic band, including tenor player Chris Potter, for the session, it is his own bass-guitar playing that both grounds and ornaments the album.

MICHAEL FORMANEK
Nature of the Beast (Enja ENJ43082)
THROUGHOUT the 1980s and 1990s, European labels such as Enja have been quietly filling the gaps in American labels' coverage of the more adventurous examples of that country's jazz output. San Francisco-born bassist Michael Formanek in many ways personifies the phenomenon: although comparatively undersung (his previous album was called *Low Profile*), he has managed to document his adventurous, vigorous, but always poised music on a series of European releases involving like-minded New York-scene stalwarts such as trumpeter Dave Douglas or saxophonists Tim Berne and Marty Ehrlich.

The former pair both appear here on an album that, like much of Formanek's

work, explores the tension between structure and abstraction in a series of lively, scurrying originals.

MICHAEL "PATCHES" STEWART
Blue Patches (Hip Bop Essence HIBD 8016)
NEW ORLEANS-born Michael "Patches" Stewart is not as well-known in the straight jazz world as he might be, having spent eight years in singer Al Jarreau's band before moving on to holding down the trumpet chair in Whitney Houston's band. But this poised, assured collection of standard ballads and original blues should rectify that. Stewart's use of Harmon mute to inject plaintive melancholy into his ballad playing recalls his greatest inspiration, Miles Davis, but he also produces flaring but elegant open trumpet on blues workouts.

STACEY KENT
Close Your Eyes (Candid CCD 79737)
ALTHOUGH born and raised in New York (in a house filled with the music of Frank Sinatra and Nat King Cole), singer Stacey Kent has been resident in this country since the early 1990s. On this, her debut album, she puts both her early exposure to classic songs and her more recent experience with the 1930s nostalgia swing band Vile Bodies to great use in a sensible programme of standards, backed by the warmly sympathetic tenor of Jim Tomlinson and one of the finest rhythm sections in the UK, led by pianist David Newton.

CHRIS PARKER

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and the other big
weekend shows,
are listed in
The Directory

The fiddler on the riff

Sass and violins: Alison Krauss and her band Union Station are touring Britain soon

More talent than technique

wasn't a democracy: it's not in my band either.

"But most big bands today, for financial reasons, don't pay a lot of money, and to get the guys to play the written parts, each has to be given a solo — even people who play horribly. If you work a little bit, like I do, you can pay them enough to shut up. All the solos will go to Andy Sheppard, Gary Valente, Wolfgang Putsching or someone else who can really play. I don't even solo in the big band — I'm not on their level."

Heroin abuse is gaining depressing and dangerous ground among music's super-famous

Pop's killing fields

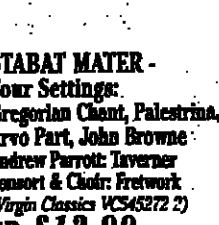
I'm not going to name names—these otherwise sane, articulate, intelligent and extremely talented people are already under pressure that would make most of us buckle. And besides, no "Showbiz Drugs Exclusive!" ever saved any lives. But unless things change, there's going to be an awful lot of funerals over the next couple of years.

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London • Leeds • Leicester • Liverpool • Manchester, 10 Market St. • Milton Keynes • Newcastle
Oxford • London • Reading • Reading • Richmond • Southampton • York

When I first became a music journalist, the second bit of "insider" information I was given — after "attending sound checks and shouting requests is a no-no" — was that you could get a free line of coke by lowering the lid of any toilet in any venue in London, and wiping your finger across

Just as heroin followed in the wake of grunge's success in the States, so it has slowly moved into Britpop circles. Cocaine — a loathsome drug that turns people into gibbering, egotistical idiots with noses like a dripping tap — is still nowhere

— is stu, nonetheless, a drug for going out, socializing and generally having a life on. Heroin, on the other hand, is a heroin's drug — junkies don't mix with "straights" — something nasty and furtive which removes you from friends and family, a self-contained, self-perpetuating bubble. Its reintroduction to the music industry was a calculated move on behalf of the dealers: For a dealer, a junkie is a long-term investment — each junkie can fund a vacht over a three-year habit.

Most musicians try heroin a couple of times, get scared and stop. Financial resources, and the fact that you can easily spend a year of your life seabed in a dark room watching daytime TV, makes most of them choose life over mid-afternoon brain death. But there's a whole faction of stars who have been able to integrate it into their lives very easily — the lull in between touring and recording albums

calling. If we demand even the leisure time of our famous for ten minutes of amusement over breakfast, who can blame them for seeking peace elsewhere? I just wish it was Hatha Yoga, rather than heroin, lighting up the music

And the details that I hear through the grapevine are as depressing as they are alarming — the pop star who injects it between his toes, so the track-marks don't show in photoshoots; the one who's been in rehab four times and still can't kick it; and the one who was introduced to it by his bandmates, became hooked, and then started other non-star friends on the habit.

I'm not going to name names—these otherwise sane, articulate, intelligent and extremely talented people are already under pressure that would make most of us buckle. And besides, no "Showbiz Drugs Exclusive!" ever saved any lives. But unless things change, there's going to be an awful lot of funerals over the next couple of years.

No duty to treat benefit claim as inclusive

Regina v Secretary of State for Social Security, Ex parte Cullen
Secretary of State for Social Security and Another v Nelson

Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Swinton Thomas and Lord Justice Phillips
[Judgment May 8]

Section 80 of the Social Security Act 1975 gave a discretion to the Secretary of State for Social Security to treat an application for supplementary benefit as including a claim for attendance allowance, but it did not impose a duty on the secretary of state to do so.

A disabled person who had claimed supplementary benefit between 1982 and 1987 without claiming attendance allowance had no right to have his claim treated as if he had also claimed attendance allowance.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by Michael John Cullen against a decision by Mr Justice Hirst on November 21, 1996, of his application for judicial review of a decision by the secretary of state that he had no powers to backdate a claim by the applicant for attendance allowance between 1982 and 1987.

The court also allowed an appeal by the secretary of state against a decision of Mr M. J. Goodman, social security commissioner, on June 15, 1995 allowing an appeal by Ronald Nelson and referring to the secretary of state for decision the question whether a claim in 1981 for supplementary benefit should also be treated as a claim on behalf of his son for attendance allowance.

Section 80 of the 1975 Act, as amended by the Supplementary Benefit Act 1976, provided that (a) a claim (b) for benefit under the Supplementary Benefit

Act 1976 may be treated as a claim in the alternative or as a claim also for such benefit under Chapter I to III as may be prescribed.

Regulation 9 of the Social Security (Claims and Payments) Regulations (SI 1979 No 628) provides:

"(9) A claim for benefit under the Supplementary Benefit Act 1976 may be treated as a claim also for attendance allowance, or an invalid care allowance."

Mr Richard Drabble, QC, for the secretary of state in both actions: Mr John Howell, QC, for Mr Cullen; Mr Nelson was unable to attend and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST said both actions raised a question of principle as to the secretary of state's powers to treat claims for supplementary benefit made between 1982 and 1987 as claims additionally or alternatively for attendance allowance.

The secretary of state had a power under regulation 9 of the 1979 Regulations to treat a claim for supplementary benefit as a claim for attendance allowance. That power had not been exercised in favour of either applicant when regulation 9(5) was revoked in April 1988 by the Social Security (Claims and Payments) Regulations (SI 1987 No 1988).

Mr Cullen was disabled by spinal injury in 1968 and claimed but on financial grounds was refused supplementary benefit between 1982 and 1987. In 1991 he had claimed attendance allowance specifically, but backdating was refused.

Mr Nelson, also severely disabled, had been potentially eligible for attendance allowance since 1981.

He had also claimed supplementary benefit, but not attendance allowance, during the period from the revocation of regulation 9(5). His application for

backdating had also been refused. His Lordship reviewed the statutory code bearing on the relevant benefits, referring particularly to section 80 of the 1975 Act. Section 16 of the Interpretation Act 1978 provided, inter alia, that the repeal of an enactment did not, unless the contrary intention appeared, affect any accrued right under that enactment: *Director of Public Works v Ho Po Sang* [1961] AC 901.

Mr Howell had submitted that despite the word "may" in section 80(2)(b) of the 1975 Act and in regulation 9(5), the secretary of state's discretion was a narrow one. He was required merely to determine whether it appeared that the claimant for supplementary benefit might also be entitled to attendance allowance.

In his Lordship's judgment, the phraseology was wholly inapplicable to a duty, but should be construed as conferring a discretionary power on the secretary of state to treat a claim for one kind of benefit as a claim for such other benefit as might be prescribed, thus freeing him from an unduly narrow approach which would confine any claim to one for the benefit specifically sought.

It could not possibly have been Parliament's intention to oblige the secretary of state in every case to consider possible entitlement to alternative or extra benefits across the whole spectrum of social security legislation as would be required if Mr Howell were correct.

The claimants had no accrued right on which the Interpretation Act could bite. Once regulation 9(5) was repealed, the secretary of state could not exercise a power which no longer existed.

Lord Justice Swinton Thomas and Lord Justice Phillips agreed.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Department of Social Security; Bobbets Macken, Bristol.

Whether conduct makes director unfit

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry v Richardson and Another

Before Mr Justice Ferris
[Judgment May 8]

A charge by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry that a director had caused a company to make a payment to its bank in preference to trade creditors was not limited to a statutory preference liable to be set aside under sections 238 to 240 of the Insolvency Act 1986, but was entitled to be based on a more general complaint about the director's conduct to determine whether it made him unfit to be concerned in the management of a company within section 6 of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986.

Mr Justice Ferris so held in the Companies Court of the Chancery Division, dismissing an appeal from an order Mr Registrar Rawson on March 21, 1996 disqualifying Mr Richard Richardson from being a director of a company for seven years pursuant to section 6 of the Disqualification Act. His Lordship granted an order nisi by which the Legal Aid Board was to pay the secretary of state's costs unless it showed cause within 14 days of service of the order as to why it should not pay.

Mr Richard Morgan for the

director; Mr Mark Cunningham for the secretary of state.

MR JUSTICE FERRIS said that although the case for the secretary of state was formulated on the basis that the conduct amounted to a statutory preference, it was not in fact limited in that way.

It was apparent from the terms of section 6 and the observations in *In re Bath Glass Ltd* [1988] BCLC 329 and *In re Sevenoaks Stationers Ltd* [1991] Ch 164 that the court was to be concerned with conduct generally and not merely with contravention of specific provisions of the Companies Act 1985 or the Insolvency Act.

Moreover, although responsibility for a statutory preference liable to be set aside under sections 238 to 240 of the Insolvency Act was one of the matters to which the court, in determining unfitness, was to have particular regard (see section 9 and paragraph 8 of Schedule 1 to the Disqualification Act) it was clear that those matters were not the only ones to which the court could have regard.

The secretary of state had not limited his case to a statutory preference. The reference to "preference" had always been made in general terms, as the secretary of state was entitled to allege.

Solicitors: Maxwell Bailey; Treasury Solicitor.

Privilege preserved in partial disclosure

Regina v Secretary of State for Transport, Ex parte Factortame and Others (No 5)

Where a party had made partial disclosure of documents which had been subject to legal professional privilege, he could not subsequently be compelled to waive privilege in respect of the undisclosed documents where the matters in issue to which the documents related were severable so that the partially disclosed material clearly did not bear on the matters in issue in respect of which material was withheld.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Auld and Mr Justice Patten) so held on May 7 when dismissing an application by, inter alia, Factortame for discovery of documents over which the respondents claimed legal professional privilege.

LORD JUSTICE AULD said

that the decision as to whether the disclosing party was unfairly seeking to take advantage of his partial disclosure in the evidence which he deployed in court need not be left until trial.

The rationale of waiver of privilege over documents which had been subject to legal professional privilege was that a party was not entitled to show his hand in part, and in general there was no satisfactory distinction for that purpose between disclosure of a document and deploying it in evidence.

Much would depend on the indication given by the disclosing party before trial whether he intended to rely on the privileged material.

Where there was uncertainty as to the use a party intended to make at trial of disclosed privileged material, the resulting unavailability of the material to the opposing party's claim party's claim to further and associated discovery might have to await trial.

Regina v Mildenhall Magistrates' Court, Ex parte Forest Heath District Council

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Potter

[Judgment April 30]

"Frustrated" in the context of an application made to justices to state a case before the connotation "frustrated, misadvised, hopeless or academic". Where justices considered an application to be so, it would be held if they would briefly indicate why they had formed that opinion.

Where justices had resolved conflicting evidence, preferring that of one party to the other and had reached a conclusion supported by the evidence, their decision, if mistaken, was an error of fact giving rise to an appeal to the crown court, but it was not, save in special circumstances, perverse and an error of law susceptible of challenge by way of case stated to the High Court.

The Court of Appeal, Civil Division, so held allowing an appeal by Mildenhall Magistrates' Court from Mr Justice Ognall who had granted an application for judicial review by Forest Heath District Council and directed the justices by an order of mandamus to state a case following their refusal to do so in respect of their discharge of a noise abatement notice served by the district council on the user of a motor cycle racing track on the ground that his activities constituted a nuisance under the Environmental Health Act 1990.

On the user's appeal from the statement notice the justices, having heard conflicting evidence, including expert evidence, had accepted that of the user and allowed his appeal.

The district council was dissatisfied with the decision and, instead of exercising its right of appeal to the crown court, applied to the justices to state a case under section 111(1) of the Magistrates'

Courts Act 1980 and pose questions which included, as question (4), whether there was any evidence on which a reasonable bench of justices could have concluded that the user's activities did not constitute a statutory nuisance.

Mr David Elvin for the justices; Mr Geoffrey Stephenson for the district council.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, having referred to *Norman v Matthews* (1916) 85 LJ KB 857, 859; *R v Cardiff Petty Sessions Betting Licensing Committee, Ex parte Les Croppiers Casino Ltd* (unreported, April 13, 1992); *R v Lowestoft Magistrates' Court, Ex parte Adamson* (1996) COD 276 and *R v Southwark Crown Court, Ex parte Brooke* (1997) COD 81, said that it was unfortunate that the expression "frivolous" had ever entered the lexicon of procedural jargon.

To the man or woman in the street "frivolous" was suggestive of light heartedness or a propensity to humour and those were not qualities associated with most actual or prospective appellants.

In the present context, the expression meant that the court considered the application to be futile, misconceived, hopeless or academic. That was not a conclusion to which justices to whom an application to state a case was made would often or lightly come.

Nor could they properly reach such a conclusion simply because they considered that their decision was right or immune from challenge; still less could they do so out of a desire to obstruct a challenge to their decision or misplaced animosity.

But there were cases in which they could properly form such an opinion and when they did it would be helpful to indicate, however briefly, why they did so. A blunt and unexplained refusal, as in the present case, might well leave an applicant entirely uncertain why the application was so

regarded and such uncertainty was liable to lead to unnecessary litigation and expenditure on costs.

On the substantive appeal, his Lordship accepted the justices' submissions that their decision had been one of fact that there was conflicting evidence called by parties which they were required to resolve and had done so; that if the district council considered that a wrong decision of fact had been reached then the appropriate mode of challenge was by way of appeal to the crown court; that it was inappropriate to dress up questions of fact as questions of law and then ask futile questions, and that question (4) was plainly inappropriate. The Divisional Court could not be called on to decide issues of fact where there was conflicting evidence.

The district council, in submitting that question (4) was an appropriate question to be raised by way of case stated, had relied heavily on *Bracegirdle v Oley* (1947) KB 349.

His Lordship, rejecting that submission and agreeing with the observations of Lord Goddard, Lord Chief Justice, there (at p353) said that it was obviously perverse and an error of law to make a finding of fact for which there was no evidential foundation, and to say that black was white, as the justices had done in the *Bracegirdle* case.

But it was not perverse, even if mistaken, to prefer A's evidence to that of B where they were in conflict.

That gave rise, in the absence of special and unusual circumstances which were absent here, to no error of law challengeable by case stated in the High Court. It gave rise to an error of fact properly to be pursued in the crown court. He would allow the appeal.

Lord Justice Millett delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Potter agreed with him.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Mr David Burnip, Mildenhall.

Suitability of school

Crane v Lancashire County Council

In deciding whether a particular school was suitable for a child with special educational needs for the purposes of section 160(2)(a) of the Education Act 1993, a local education authority did not need to carry out a balancing exercise between the educational suitability of the school and the parents' wishes before coming to its conclusion. The suitability of a school was a question of fact not fairness.

Mr Justice Popplewell so held in the Queen's Bench Division on May 12 when dismissing an appeal by Mr and Mrs Crane against a decision of the Lancashire County Council Special Educational Needs Tribunal of July 12, 1996 to the effect that the special school named by the local education authority was the appropriate placement for their son.

HIS LORDSHIP said that on the other hand, in deciding what would be an efficient use of resources for the purposes of section 160(2)(a), the authority did need to balance the need to incur additional costs against parental preference.

That was not simply a matter of fact as to what constituted efficient use of resources. If it were, any additional expenditure, however slight, on a mainstream school could be said to be an inefficient use of resources. Accordingly, that question was part fact, part balancing exercise.

Swap breakage cost was not incurred in connection with the stock

Bank of Scotland v Dunedin Property Investment Co Ltd
Before Lord Penrose

[Judgment March 14]

Where loan stock was issued on condition that it might be redeemed subject to the lender being reimbursed for "all costs, charges and expenses incurred by it in connection with the stock", and on redemption through the ordinary practice of the inter-bank market, the lender incurred the swap breakage cost of an interest-rate swap en-

terposed to avoid interest-rate risks in connection with the loan, but there had been no express discussion by the borrower and lender of the latter's intention to use a swap to hedge the loan, the breakage cost was not a cost incurred "in connection with the stock" and could not be recovered by the lender from the borrower.

LORD PENROSE, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, so held, granting decree absolving Dunedin Property

Investment Co Ltd in an action of declarator brought against it by the Bank of Scotland.

Mr James Drummond Young, QC and Mr David Sellar for the pursuers; Mr Colin Campbell, QC and Mrs Sarah Wolfe for the defenders.

LORD PENROSE said that the defenders had issued to the pursuers a debenture loan stock to the value of £10,000,000 for a fixed term of ten years at a fixed rate of interest.

Condition 3 of the loan stock deed entitled the defenders to repurchase the stock on six months notice "subject to the bank being fully reimbursed for all costs, charges and expenses incurred by it in connection with the stock".

The pursuers had hedged the transaction by means of an interest-rate swap with Security Pacific National Bank, exchanging receipt by the pursuers of a fixed rate for payment of a floating rate, namely the six-month Libor rate, which the pursuers were paying for the sum raised by them on the inter-bank market to fund the advance.

In 1993 the defenders had given notice to repurchase the stock in terms of condition 3. The pursuers maintained in reply to the notice that the defenders were liable to pay the cost to the pursuers of breaking the swap with Security Pacific. That cost was the sum payable to Security Pacific cal-

culated by reference to the fixed rate payable on the swap and the fixed rate that the US bank would get for a loan of the same maturity in the current market, subject to a discount to reach a current value for the breakage cost. That cost was given at £1,500,000.

The pursuers contended that, on the evidence, in practice there was never any power to break a long-term swap without compensation. The words in condition 3 were all in common use and meant that anything that the bank had to pay to break its hedging arrangement was a cost, charge or expense in connection with the stock.

In practice, it was not possible to use existing hedges for new transactions because of changes in interest rates. As regards the circumstances known to the parties or to reasonable men in their position, the breakage cost arose out of the hedging arrangements undertaken by the bank to enable it to make the loan.

Hedging was a means of eliminating the interest rate risk by a deposit or swap. It was ordinarily prudent for a banker. The evidence was that a deposit to cover a loan of £10,000,000 for ten years could not be obtained. It had been objectively likely that the practice of hedging would be followed, and in 1989 the treasurer of a property development company was likely to have been aware of and to use the practice.

His Lordship's opinion was that if the issue had been of construction of condition 3 in vacuo, without reference to the surrounding circumstances, the arguments would clearly favour the view that the bank were not entitled to recover the cost of breaking the swap transaction.

No doubt it had been prudent and in accordance with normal banking practice, but it had been entirely independent of the loan and had been undertaken by them for their own purposes. Its terms were curvilinear with the knowledge and control of the defenders.

While there would be little difficulty in accepting that the cost of breaking the swap fell to be regarded as a cost, charge or expense incurred by the bank, there would be much greater difficulty in accepting that it should be treated as a cost, charge or expense incurred "in connection with the stock". In the absence of surrounding circumstances, those words imposed a limitation to costs directly incurred by the stock, such as drafting costs in connection with the loan agreement, the costs of any necessary registration, or any administrative costs that might be incurred.

On the other hand, the evidence indicated that it had been ex-

plained by the pursuers to the defenders that the bank did intend to hedge the transaction; that if the transaction were brought to a premature conclusion there would be a cost; and that the bank would look to the defenders to pay that cost. There had been discussion of the cost to the bank of borrowing the funds required for the transaction, and of the fact that no guarantee as to the amount of the costs on termination could be given, although the bank would attempt to minimise them.

On the other hand, the evidence also suggested that there had been no discussion of interest rate swaps as a means of hedging, or of the practice of the inter-bank market whereby there would be no automatic right to terminate a term loan.

In the light of *Gloag, Contract* (2nd edn, p373) and *Penn v Simmonds* (1971) 1 WLR 1381, the strongest argument for the bank was that the defenders must have known that there were potential costs in setting up a fixed-interest loan for a period of ten years.

On the evidence, the parties had had risks and costs arising from early termination in view and they were to be borne by the defenders. It could be argued with some considerable force that the critical words "in connection with the stock" had to be given a wider meaning and in the present circumstances should be held to

include the cost of breaking the swap agreement.

Strong as that argument was, however, his Lordship had come to the conclusion that it had to be rejected. The evidence did not go so far as to show either that interest-rate swaps, in particular, were discussed or that the inter-bank market practice had to been explained.

In consequence it had not been shown that the parties must have had in contemplation, as one of the

costs to be borne on early termination, the non-negotiable cost of terminating an independent contract entered into by the pursuers for their own purposes.

The evidence did not show that that cost was so intimately involved in the character, aim or object of transaction that it had to be held to form part of the consensus at which the parties had arrived.

Law agents: Dundas & Wilson, CS; Simpson & Marwick, WS.

Judicial review challenge competent

Boyle v Castlemeil East Housing Co-operative Ltd
Before Lord Eassie

[Judgment March 26]

Where a person was entitled to a payment under statute if he met certain qualifying criteria, but the statute provided that payment was conditional upon the making of a written application to the paying authority, the facts of which the authority was entitled to check, it was competent to seek judicial review of the authority's refusal to pay, because the obligation to submit a written application excluded an ordinary action for payment.

LORD EASSIE, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, so held, allowing Mrs Bridget Boyle a hearing on the merits of a petition brought by her for judicial review of Castlemeil East Housing Co-operative Ltd's refusal to grant an application by her for a home loss payment.

Mr Andrew Webster for the petitioner; Mr Donald Rae for the respondents.

LORD EASSIE said that the petitioner was a tenant of the respondents who had applied for a home loss payment under section 27 of the Land Compensation (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended. She sought, inter alia, declarator of her entitlement to payment and order for payment.

Such payments had been intro-

duced by the Land Compensation Act 1973, and then re-enacted in the Scots Act of the same year.

A tenant of a housing association was entitled to a payment if certain conditions were met: that he had been permanently displaced from a dwelling in consequence of its improvement or redevelopment; that he had been in occupation of the dwelling as his only or main residence for one year; and that he had been in occupation by virtue of an interest or right to which section 27 applied.

The amount was to be 10 per cent of the market value, subject to a minimum payment of £1,500. Any dispute about the market value was, in the ordinary case, to be referred to the Lands Tribunal for Scotland under section 23(3).

Section 29(1) provided that no payment was to be made except in a claim being made in writing giving such particulars as the paying authority might reasonably require.

The respondents argued that it was incompetent to seek judicial review where what was asserted was an entitlement to a non-discretionary payment. The respondents in dealing with such a claim did not exercise any discretion since the qualifying criteria had been enacted by Parliament.

They were not exercising any jurisdiction in the sense in which that term had been employed in

West v Secretary of State for Scotland (1993) SLT 213. The petitioners' remedy was to sue in the Sheriff Court.

The fact that she sought declarator of her entitlement and an order for payment demonstrated that she was seeking a decision on the merits of her claim and not merely a declaration of a power of jurisdiction exercised by an inferior tribunal or authority.

His Lordship observed that section 29(1) stipulated that a payment was conditional on the making of a claim in writing to the responsible authority who were then required to determine whether payment should be made, and if so, its amount.

Were the right to a home loss payment simply a matter of direct entitlement in the manner of an ordinary debt, that provision would be otiose. Any ordinary letter of demand would suffice and then only to avoid the consequences in expenses of having raised court proceedings unnecessarily.

The fact that if the statutory criteria were satisfied the ultimate amount of a payment was fixed in the sum of £1,500 did not mean that there was no jurisdiction exercised by the responsible authority.

The authority had to determine such matters as whether there had been a displacement; if so, whether

that resulted from the carrying out of improvement or redevelopment; whether the house was a main residence; whether it had been occupied for a period of one year ending with the displacement; and whether the criteria in section 29(3) and (3A) were met.

There were accordingly matters of fact as to which the authority had to be asked to determine or to determine an application in favour of the claimant and in order to do so it was empowered to make reasonable requirements as to the giving of particulars.

In his Lordship's view the power to require the furnishing of particulars as a precondition of determining an application pointed clearly towards the creation by the legislation of a "jurisdiction" as did the use of the word "determining" in section 29(1).

Accordingly the respondents' attack on the competency of the petition in relation to a home loss payment was unsound. However, the respondents were correct in advancing the same argument in relation to a claim in the same petition for a disturbance payment under section 34, because on a proper construction of section 35 questions of both entitlement to and quantum of disturbance payments were matters for the Lands Tribunal for Scotland.

Law agents: Easdale MacAskill & Co; Hasties, SSC.

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EDUCATION



Greek lessons at the Brass House, an adult education centre in Birmingham. In Britain, adults comprise a large proportion of college students

Learning curve for life

Alan Tuckett outlines a much-needed initiative to help the nation's adults to educate themselves

Adult learning is an untidy business. There is now cross-party consensus that the creation of a society in which people learn throughout their lives is essential if we want the UK to be economically competitive. There is increasing agreement with the argument of the 1996 European White Paper *Growth, Competitiveness, Employment*, which highlighted the importance of learning for citizenship and of promotion of social cohesion.

Adults now account for three out of four college students and the bulk of people learning in the workplace. Despite year-on-year cutbacks in local education authority budgets, thousands of students continue to learn in community settings and, with the National Lottery's *Charities Board* injecting funds into the voluntary sector this year, prospects look good.

There is much to celebrate, but we can scarcely feel complacent. It is unlikely that we shall achieve the targets for lifetime learning set out in the National Targets for Education and Training.

The CBI points to the "long tale of underachievement" in the skills and knowledge base of the British workforce. In *The Learning Divide*, published by the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE) to coincide with Adult Learners' Week next week, Naomi Sargent reports that more than a third of adults say they have done no learning since

they left full-time education, and eight out of ten see no likelihood of taking up learning in the next three years.

Part-time and temporary work, and self-employment, are growth areas in the labour force yet only 70 per cent of employers recognise responsibility for training their part-time staff, and just 40 per cent train temporary workers.

While self-employed people find it hard to find time for updating, Adult Learners' Week attempts to address the challenge of reaching more and different learners.

Regional independent television will cover outstanding adult learners' awards telling stories of students such as

98-year-old Esther Leonora Clark, from Glossop in Derbyshire, who organised her own French conversation class, or Lin Li, who arrived from China in 1990 and has studied her way into a job in accountancy.

The BBC is launching a major three-year campaign to encourage people to become IT literate. "Computers Don't Bite" combines prime-time broadcasting, a BBC learning package online or on CD-Rom, and the chance to study locally. Channel 4 will be

looking at all the learning going on in pubs.

There is a free national telephone helpline (0800 100 900) available during the week, offering advice on studying. There are 5,000 local events, ministerial and parliamentary receptions, and line dances all over the country this Saturday. David Blunkett is learning French with

French embassy staff on the London learning bus on Monday morning, and the Orange Book Trust will be launching Orange Reading Groups at bookshops, libraries and adult centres.

By the end of the week, 50,000 people are expected to have called the helpline, up to half of them long-term unemployed.

Many others will be put off by financial barriers. The vast majority of adults study part-time, yet grants favour full-time students, and part-timers have to pay their own fees. Unemployed people risk losing benefits if they want to study for more than 16 hours a week, and LEA discretionary grants are disappearing.

No one designed our post-school education and training system with adults in mind. As a result, a key factor affecting

your chance to learn is the quality of advice on offer.

The last Government recognised this when agreeing to set up a free "learning line", planned for September. Labour identifies the importance of advice in plans for a "university for industry". It also recognises the importance of the workplace in reaching new learners. Next Wednesday is Learning in the Workplace Day, and NIACE will report on research sponsored by the EdExcel Foundation which looks at the key role of supervisors and line-managers. If you are in work, you are likely to ask your boss for advice on what and where to study — yet far too few people know what is on offer.

Labour's plans to introduce a "learning account" worth £150 for people without post-school learning experience is based on the success of employee development schemes at Ford, Rover, Lucas and hundreds of other companies which have recognised the economic sense of supporting workers to learn anything they want to, knowing that skills learnt in one sphere spill over into others.

There are powerful local initiatives, too. "Learning cities" are springing up all over the country, all drawing on the partnership of business and industry, education and training to improve learning opportunities. From electronic

Anne Lee suggests how to match fine words with deeds

Living up to Labour's vision



NOW THAT the issue of raising standards in schools has been made the Government's top priority, has three ministers in charge of it and a professor to advise the Government on it, how can we ensure that these standards actually are raised?

With more than 25 per cent of the new Government having had teaching experience, we are entitled to expect some enlightenment, but not necessarily unanimity, on the subject.

Ministers must approach this thorny issue balancing both the economists' and the psychologists' points of view. In the classroom, we already know what creates good teaching and learning. The difficult part is working out how to make it happen. We know that in the Czech Republic, educational attainment at the age of 13 in mathematics and science is nearly at the top of the international league tables, even though the state spends less than half as much per pupil as we do. However, the culture in the Czech Republic is to value education above all. Can David Blunkett create this culture here among our disaffected, underachieving boys?

This is not an argument for budget cuts: there are too many familiar stories of insufficient supplies of out-of-date textbooks. I heard of one pupil who moved in the sixth form to an independent school from the state system. She earned herself some good-natured heckling when, at the end of the first lesson, she offered to collect up the photocopied worksheets. "You mean we are allowed to keep them?"

Resources in the classroom are vital. Teachers have learnt through years of parsimony to make a little go a long way, so a little more in the classroom and a little less on bureaucracy might go a very long way.

Good teaching is a skill that can be taught at training college, and ought to be reinforced through continuing professional education. Having been head teacher at a school where, as well as dealing with the very bright, we enabled students with mediocre abilities to attain respectable A-level grades, I know this can be done. It requires great dedication, good systems, prompt feedback to students and to other teachers. It requires both resources and a culture in which the head teacher and parents readily praise and value classroom achievement, yet do not shirk from problems.

It is easier to achieve high standards in schools where the size creates a sense of

community (say, up to 650 pupils) and it is no accident that in the independent sector, it is the smallest schools (200-350 pupils) which serve the less academically able pupils the best. Perhaps new Labour will be bold enough to ask why parents are increasingly choosing the independent system if they can.

Sometimes it has just got too dire. Closing the failing schools, replacing a governing body or temporarily placing two head teachers in a post where one could not possibly win are all important last-resort tools.

It has been suggested that the new head teachers' qualification will become mandatory. Certainly the role of the head teacher is central to any attempt to raise standards. They must know how to use the disciplinary and competency procedures. They also need to know they will get reasonable backing from their governors and local education authorities.

Good teaching includes having clear objectives for each lesson. It includes using a combination of whole-class teaching and discovery learning. It means knowing how to handle questions, both the innocent and the disruptive sort, and handing back marked work promptly. We know that people learn in different ways, and learn most when they feel loved and esteemed. Computers can support, but they will never be able to replace the qualified teacher.

WE MUST learn to recognise, reward and use those many teachers who are outstanding, rather than easing them out because they are too expensive. We need those whose classroom skills are constantly good, who take the trouble to update their expertise, who can coach and advise junior teachers and who make cultural or sporting contributions to school life which, shame on us, we have taken for granted for so long.

Though a general teaching council must regulate minimum standards, we should award the outstanding the status in our society that they deserve and call them "chartered teachers".

But how will we know when standards are rising? We will know when we agree not to keep changing the goalposts and can monitor exam results. We will know by watching our country's results in the international educational studies. One day (please), employers may comment on our well skilled and flexible workforce.

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Chelsea snubs Ivy League

Chelsea Clinton is going to Stanford this autumn, and university admissions officers everywhere else in America are sniffling soft tears into their wine glasses.

Why didn't she choose us, they ask at Harvard. The question, flavoured with pique, has been asked also at Yale, at Princeton, at Brown, at Wellesley. Is the Ivy League not good enough for the First Daughter? Why, oh why, does she want to study in the midst of those palm trees, surfbeats, roller-blades, bicycle hot-ticks and on-campus sushi bars? What's wrong with New England, old money and a bit of sleet in winter?

Even Mom and Dad are unhappy. Chelsea, 17 years old, will be 3,000 miles from Washington, as far from her parents as it is possible to be on a mainland American campus. The President, at least, was pragmatic. "We'll stay in touch with her," he said. "The planes run out there and the phones work. And we can e-mail her, so we'll be all right." Hillary Clinton, as is her wont, took a more sour view of her daughter's impending flight. "My friends there," she revealed, "will keep an eye on her."

Chelsea's choice has intrigued America. She will study for a "pre-med" course: a liberal arts-and-science degree, lasting four years, that will link her into shape for a postgraduate degree in medicine. She will nourish herself on large servings of Eng lit, chemistry, calculus, biology, philosophy and a typically



Watching: Mrs Clinton says friends will keep an eye on Chelsea

Tunku Varadarajan explains why the First Daughter chose California

Californian intellectual blarney called Cultures, Ideas and Values. Wags insist that she will spend much of her time in Stanford's labs, trying to isolate and destroy her Arkansas genes.

There is no question that Chelsea's decision has strengthened Stanford's standing in the sharp-clawed world of America's universities. "She's done the right thing," said Cliff Blacker, a former National Security adviser to Mr Clinton and a Stanford man himself. "As an institution, Harvard is the university of the 20th century. Stanford, however, is the university of the 21st century."

Founded in 1891, which makes it a positively medieval

place by Californian standards, Chelsea's alma mater-to-be first won recognition for its engineering and science faculties, which are credited with spawning the fabled Silicon Valley. Yet Stanford's humanities departments are now just as redoubtable. Four of America's nine Supreme Court judges, for example, read law there.

What most attracted Chelsea is that factor loosely described as "atmosphere". The campus is an alluring place, set in 8,100 acres of park land. Its red-roofed buildings, balmy climate and laid-back Californian demeanour made it quite irresistible to a young woman who has been

hemmed in for too long by the ponderous protocol of White House life.

College-watchers also believe that Chelsea's decision was based as much on Stanford's positive appeal as on its competitors' negative points.

Edward Fiske, editor of the annual *Fiske Guide to Colleges*, was betting on Harvard, but has said he understands her reasoning. Harvard is, after all, less attentive to its undergraduates than it is to its much-vaunted "grads". Yale was ruled out by the independent-minded Chelsea because her parents studied law there. Besides, New Haven is a pretty grotty place.

Princeton came close, but its small-town setting and proximity to Washington would have appealed more to her parents and bodyguards than to Chelsea herself. Eminent Brown University, with the fewest scholarships available at any Ivy League institution, would have been a politically tricky choice. And as for Wellesley... well, Hillary Clinton went there as an undergraduate. Adios, Wellesley!

So, the President's daughter, who grows less gawky with every passing day, will go west in search of wisdom. As a National Merit Scholarship finalist, she could have walked into the university of her choice. A thoughtful, articulate teenager — whose views on world affairs are probably weightier than her father's — this White House ugly duckling could soon turn into a Stanford swan. Watch Chelsea grow wings, in California.

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Application forms may be obtained from: Dr Sandra Ott,

Department for Continuing Education, 1 Wellington

Square, Oxford OX1 2JA and should be returned to her,

with five copies of a covering letter and a full curriculum

vita with the names and addresses of three referees, no

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RACING: ECLIPSE OF CLASSIC CLICHE CONFIRMS PROBLEMS FOR DUBAI TEAM

Godolphin considers suspending operations

By JULIAN MUSCAT

CONNECTIONS of the hugely successful Godolphin stable yesterday accepted that which the poor showing of their horses has long suggested: all is not well within the Sheikh Mohammed-inspired outfit which swept to the trainers' championship last season.

The series of below-par performances has been uncharacteristic of a stable run along precise lines. But Classic Cliche's eclipse in the Yorkshire Cup yesterday prompted Simon Crisford, Godolphin's racing manager, to accept that a cloud has settled over the Newmarket-based stable.

After Classic Cliche, a proven and resolute galloper, had finished tailed off in the race he landed with gusto 12 months ago. Crisford said: "We were not prepared to look into it until Classic Cliche had run. He was our benchmark and he went out like a light three furlongs out. All the tests have come back fine but something is clearly wrong. We can't put our finger on it and none of us has ever known anything like it."

Crisford and other key members of Godolphin met with Sheikh Mohammed last night to decide on the appropriate course of action. The odds are Godolphin will shut up shop until the root of the problem is identified. Although a strategy for the longer term remains to be confirmed, a decision about the next few days was swiftly forthcoming.

Godolphin's declared runners at Newbury and Newmarket today will be scratched, and its intended starters for tomorrow and Sunday will also not run. Significant among its entries are Alhaarth and Allied

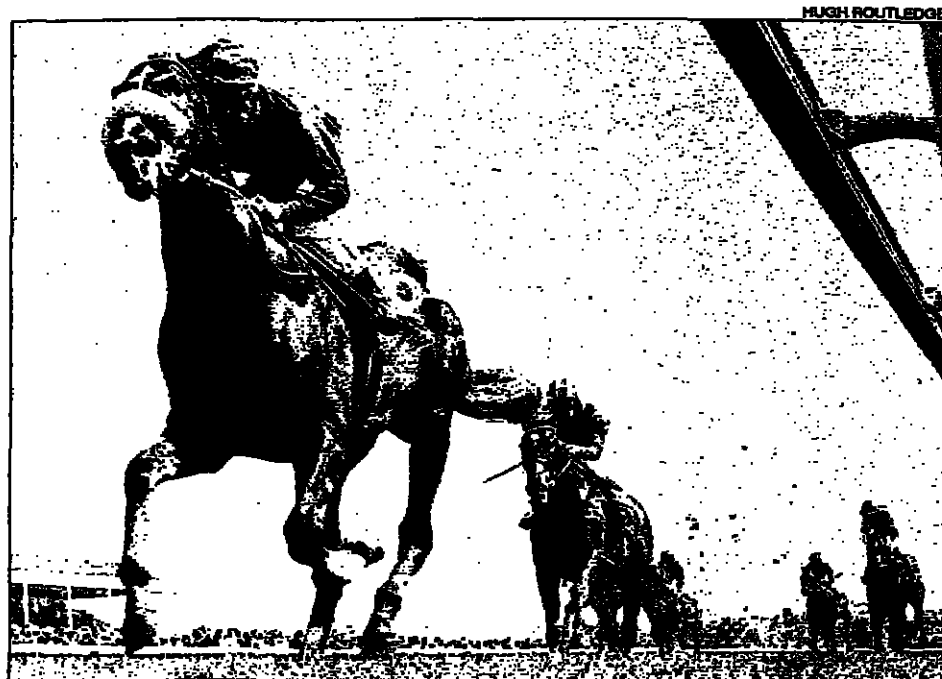
Forces, who were scheduled to contest the group one Juddmonte Lockinge Stakes at Newbury this afternoon. "We have to get to the bottom of it," Crisford said. "This is something new to us because we have never previously suffered long-term problems. We are going into the wilderness, but we will be back."

In addition to Classic Cliche, Asas finished tailed off in the Michael Seely Memorial Glasgow Conditions Stakes yesterday. Blue Duster and Diffident ran respectably in the Duke of York Stakes, while Monsiegem — rated among Godolphin's better juveniles — finished a never-dangerous fourth on his racecourse debut. Godolphin has now saddled three winners from 25 runners this season, a poor strike-rate by its standards. Despite its tribulations, however, some massive wagers were struck on Classic Cliche, including individual bets of £24,000 and £20,000.

"We never run horses unless all their regular tests show them to be 100 per cent," Crisford said. "They look great, seem healthy and have been pleasing their work riders. We don't know what to make of it."

As Godolphin struggled with its problems, Ben Hanbury was able to deliver an upbeat assessment of Fahris, who is back on course for the Vodafone Derby after making significant progress from a sinus operation.

The colt, the winner of the Feilden Stakes at Newmarket last month, had been doubtful for the Epsom classic but is back cantering. He is a best-priced 20-1 with the Toté.



Symonds Inn lands the Michael Seely Memorial Glasgow Stakes at York yesterday

FOLKESTONE

THUNDERER

5.50 Mister Main Man, 6.25 Mister Speculator, 6.55 Cardinal Richieu, 7.30 Sirast, 8.00 Reverend Brown, 8.30 Silvenam Mist.

Carl Evans: 5.50 Mister Main Man, 6.25 Mister Speculator, 6.55 Cardinal Richieu, 7.30 Sirast, 8.00 Red Channel, 8.30 Silvenam Mist.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS

5.50 NIGEL COLLISON FUELS NOVICES

HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £1,990: 3m 20) (10 runners)

1 1340 BALLYVILLA CASTLE SP (F) 5m 11-12-7 M Breen (7)
2 1350 BRIGHT HOUND SP (F) 5m 11-12-7 M Breen (7)
3 1360 CENTRE STAGE SP (F) 5m 11-12-7 M Breen (7)
4 1370 MISTER MAIN MAN SP (F) 5m 11-12-7 M Breen (7)
5 1380 MISTER MAIN MAN SP (F) 5m 11-12-7 M Breen (7)
6 1390 MISTER MAIN MAN SP (F) 5m 11-12-7 M Breen (7)
7 1400 MISTER MAIN MAN SP (F) 5m 11-12-7 M Breen (7)
8 1410 MISTER MAIN MAN SP (F) 5m 11-12-7 M Breen (7)
9 1420 MISTER MAIN MAN SP (F) 5m 11-12-7 M Breen (7)
10 1430 MISTER MAIN MAN SP (F) 5m 11-12-7 M Breen (7)

3-1 Mister Main Man, 7-2 No Joke, 8-1 No Joke, 9-1 No Joke, 10-1 No Joke.

6-1 Ballyville Castle, 10-1 No Joke, 11-1 No Joke, 12-1 No Joke.

6.25 KENT AND SURREY BLOODHOUNDS

MAIDEN HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £1,600: 2m 50) (10)

1 421 BARK ELIAS SP (F) 5m 11-12-7 M Breen (7)
2 432 BARK ELIAS SP (F) 5m 11-12-7 M Breen (7)
3 443 BARK ELIAS SP (F) 5m 11-12-7 M Breen (7)
4 454 BARK ELIAS SP (F) 5m 11-12-7 M Breen (7)
5 465 BARK ELIAS SP (F) 5m 11-12-7 M Breen (7)
6 476 BARK ELIAS SP (F) 5m 11-12-7 M Breen (7)
7 487 BARK ELIAS SP (F) 5m 11-12-7 M Breen (7)
8 498 BARK ELIAS SP (F) 5m 11-12-7 M Breen (7)
9 509 BARK ELIAS SP (F) 5m 11-12-7 M Breen (7)
10 520 BARK ELIAS SP (F) 5m 11-12-7 M Breen (7)

3-1 Bark Elias, 7-2 Bark Elias, 8-1 Bark Elias, 9-1 Bark Elias, 10-1 Bark Elias.

6.50 KENT AND SURREY BLOODHOUNDS

MAIDEN HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £1,600: 2m 50) (10)

1 421 BARK ELIAS SP (F) 5m 11-12-7 M Breen (7)
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9 509 BARK ELIAS SP (F) 5m 11-12-7 M Breen (7)
10 520 BARK ELIAS SP (F) 5m 11-12-7 M Breen (7)

3-1 Bark Elias, 7-2 Bark Elias, 8-1 Bark Elias, 9-1 Bark Elias, 10-1 Bark Elias.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

FOLKESTONE: Trainers: N. Gash, 4 winners from 20 runners, 20.0% only. Jockey: N. Gash.

STRAVING: Trainers: A. Storer, 3 winners from 8 runners, 37.5% only. Jockey: N. Gash.

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6.55 HBS APPEAL OPEN HUNTERS CHASE

(Amateurs: £1,900: 3m 20) (7)

1 1322 CAPE COURAGE SP (F) 5m 11-12-7 M Breen (7)
2 1333 CAPE COURAGE SP (F) 5m 11-12-7 M Breen (7)
3 1344 CAPE COURAGE SP (F) 5m 11-12-7 M Breen (7)
4 1355 CAPE COURAGE SP (F) 5m 11-12-7 M Breen (7)
5 1366 CAPE COURAGE SP (F) 5m 11-12-7 M Breen (7)
6 1377 CAPE COURAGE SP (F) 5m 11-12-7 M Breen (7)
7 1388 CAPE COURAGE SP (F) 5m 11-12-7 M Breen (7)

3-1 Cape Courage, 7-2 Cape Courage, 8-1 Cape Courage, 9-1 Cape Courage, 10-1 Cape Courage.

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6.55 HBS APPEAL OPEN HUNTERS CHASE

(Amateurs: £1,900: 3m 20) (7)

Brian Glanville charts Roberto di Matteo's unorthodox route to Wembley

Italian wanderer who has found freedom in exile

Roberto di Matteo has this in common with his Chelsea and Italy colleague, Gianluca Zola: in football terms they have both come up the hard way, both followed their route to the top from relative obscurity.

This is in contrast to Chelsea's third Italian, Gianluca Zola, the golden boy from a comfortable Cremona family, whose seemingly inexorable progress has only now, in London, shuddered to a halt.

But where Zola at least grew up in the warmth of a Sardinian family, di Matteo, as an Italian journalist in London puts it, "has known the realities of life. He's encountered racism, as immigrants do. Every day, he knows so well that he is one of the privileged."

The racism was encountered in Switzerland, where di Matteo was born 27 years ago in Schaffhausen, the son of an immigrant worker from the Abruzzi. In fact, apart from his three seasons in Rome with Lazio, di Matteo has spent practically the whole of his life outside Italy.

To watch him play now, in midfield, to watch the cool, assured elegance with which he wins tackles, glides into attack, strikes powerfully for goal, or makes a clever pass, it is strange to think his progress has been so unorthodox.

With his dark, deep southern looks, he must always have seemed a fish out of water in German Switzerland. But the local Schaffhausen club, then in the Swiss second division, launched him as an 18-year-old, tall and well built, using him 49 times in his first two seasons. His third season was wasted. He was fit to play but a single game.

Yet better things were in store. In 1991, he was signed by the Zurich club of the first division, played 34 games and scored half a dozen goals with his now familiar bursts from the midfield, and moved on to SC Aarau. Here, too, he was a

regular in the side. All at once, a spectacular new career beckoned.

To the delight of his parents, who had always wanted him to play in Italy – and still do – he was transferred to Lazio. It was in some senses a mixed blessing, with more money, an Italian ambience, the chance to become a star. But, against that, there was the immense pressures of Roman football, the demanding fans, the intransigent press, and Zdenek Zeman.

Zeman, recently sacked by Lazio, is the Czech manager who originally came to Italy as a basketball coach, turned to football, successfully managed Foggia, and was appointed by Lazio. He is a dour figure, who trained his players to exhaust-

Matteo played all but one of Italy's remaining games that season, collecting six caps.

The next season, it was an international match for Italy which soured his relations with Zeman and led in turn to him leaving Lazio.

After the game, di Matteo returned to Rome and took a day off training. Zeman was incensed, and publicly criticised di Matteo, implying that he was shirking his duties to the club. The situation was exacerbated when, in an Italian cup-tie against Internazionale, at home, which Lazio dominated, Inter won thanks to a goal scored when a corner skidded off di Matteo's hapless head, to be exploited by Berti.

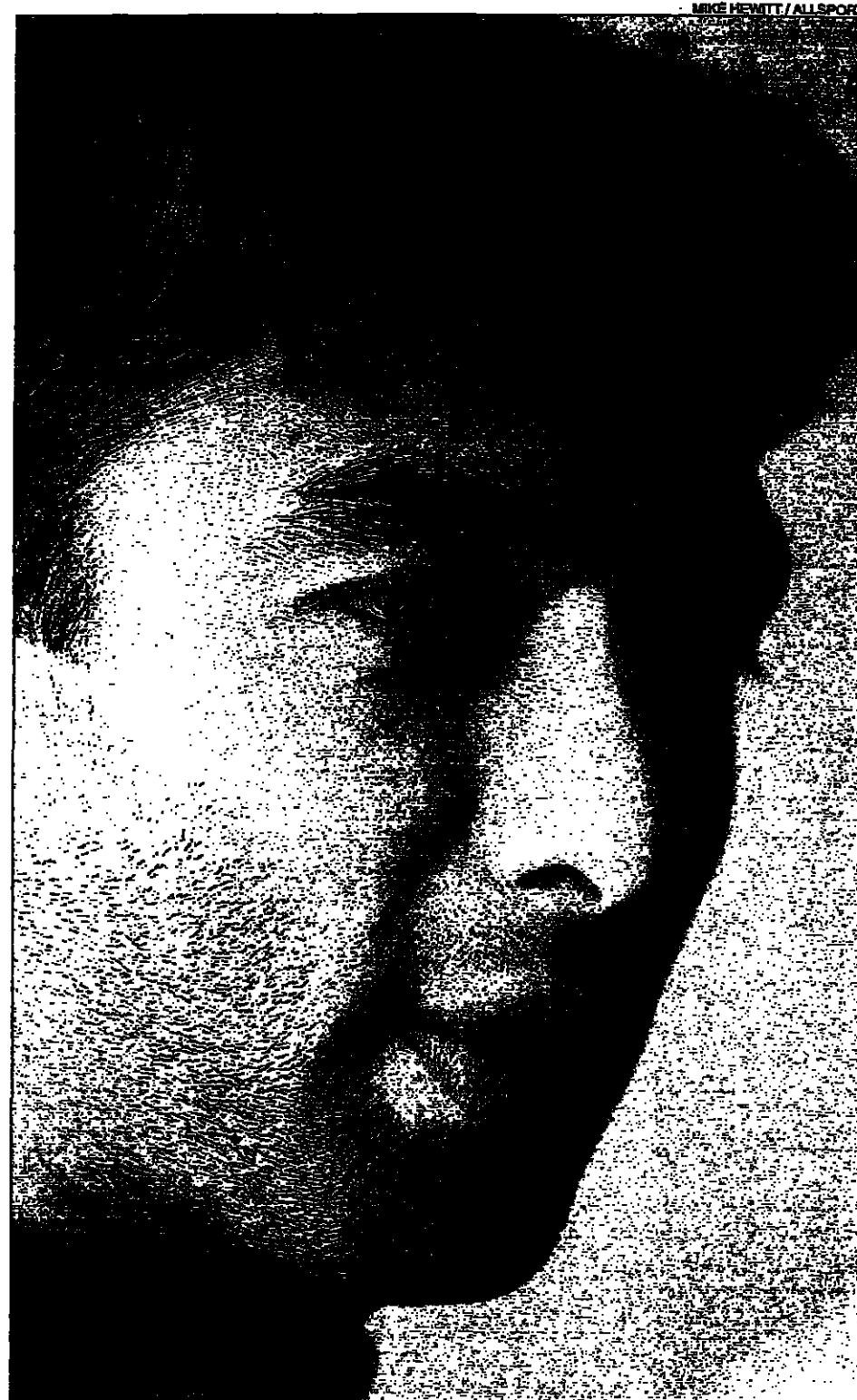
All this was enough to incite the lunatic fringe of Lazio's volatile fans. A group of them went to di Matteo's home, destroying his entry phone and post box. The next Sunday, as a public, pompous protest against Lazio's recent poor results, the fans decided they would stay silent in the Olympic Stadium.

In June last year, Zeman put the tin lid on it when he described di Matteo as "important but not indispensable". Di Matteo decided that was enough: he would leave. Sergio Cragnotti, Lazio's owner, roared that di Matteo was under contract, and must stay. Two days later, he went.

Indeed, the deal was done in Cragnotti's office in central Rome. Some Lazio fans were there, hovering outside. When di Matteo drove away for ever, they spat on his taxi.

Di Matteo took quickly to London, though his parents still wish that he had stayed in Italy. A bachelor, he frequently brings his family to England, especially his blind, 18-year-old sister, whom he diligently takes to Chelsea's games.

The same Italian journalist sees di Matteo as pure gold. "You could go away, leave him in your house, leave him access to your bank accounts,



Di Matteo has had to overcome adversity and prejudice on his way to the top

and, when you return, the house will be in perfect order, and every penny of interest on your account would have been paid."

His form dipped a little in December, and Gullit left him out for a couple of games. "I spoke with him," Gullit said. "I said I didn't see what I

expected of him. I just gave him a couple of weeks' good training, and he relaxes himself, relaxes more. I think sometimes you have to protect the player from himself, give him the right boost to come back again."

Which di Matteo, still Chelsea's most expensive player, at

£4.9 million, emphatically has done. Of Lazio, he has said: "Our team was good in defence, but less good in attack. So that was the reason we never won anything. It was difficult at away games. We didn't win so many points away." But now he can hope to win an FA Cup Final.

Wembley plans come unstuck as Wolves go out early

By Russell Kempson

IT WILL be remembered as one of the Express & Star's shorter and less successful promotions – the "I wanna go to Wembley" car sticker campaign.

Yesterday morning, in Wolverhampton, there was not a vehicle in sight with the black-and-gold catchphrase adorning its back window. Wolverhampton Wanderers had bowed out of the Nationwide League's first division play-offs the night before, and their hopes of joining the FA Cup Carling Premiership had again expired.

Even with the benefit of the vociferous Molineux support, and a first half goal from Mark Atkins, Wolves, trailing 3-1 from the first leg, failed to produce any similar passion or constructive movement. Palace, young and inexperienced, remained calm under pressure and equalised through David Hopkins in the second half. Even a late goal from Adrian Williams failed to ruffle their composure.

Palace go on to meet Sheffield United in the final at Wembley on May 26. United went through against Ipswich Town at Portman Road, a stubborn display earning them a 2-2 draw after extra time and safe passage on the away goals rule. They had also drawn the first leg, 1-1, at Bramall Lane.

In the second division semi-finals, Brentford beat Bristol City 2-1 at Griffin Park, giving them a 4-2 aggregate victory, while Crewe Alexandra recovered from 2-0 down to draw 2-2 with Luton Town at Kenilworth Road. Crewe went through to Wembley, where they will meet Brentford on May 25, on a 4-3 aggregate.

Prospects of an all-Welsh third division final between Swansea City and Cardiff City, which police had feared because of the rival fans' traditional dislike for each other, failed to materialise. Though Swansea beat Chester City 3-0, after drawing the first leg 0-0, Cardiff lost 3-2 to Northampton Town, and 4-2 overall. Swansea and Northampton meet on May 24.

Success for Robson may make Barcelona think again

By Oliver Holt
Football Correspondent

THE day before Wednesday's European Cup Winners' Cup final, some Dutch journalists began taunting Bobby Robson at a press conference. "They were shouting the names of Johan Cruyff and Louis van Gaal at me," the Barcelona coach said. "They said I was just a stop-gap between two Dutchmen. But I pay no attention to that."

Yesterday, no one else was paying attention either. The taunts were still, the tables had been turned and Robson was revelling in the 1-0 victory over Paris Saint-Germain that brought Barcelona their first significant trophy for three years, courtesy of a penalty by their Brazil forward, Ronaldo.

Wednesday night's victory, coupled with Saturday's win over Real Madrid, has at last brought Robson respect in Spain after a season of rumours that he was about to be replaced by Van Gaal. The Barcelona president, Josep Lluís Núñez, may still press ahead with that ill-conceived, ill-conceived plan, but Robson will at least have made him squirm if he does, after an impressive first season in charge. Yesterday, though, the former England manager was allowing himself to dream of crowning his career with a European Cup triumph.

"We have a great chance of finishing at least second in the Spanish league," Robson said, "and I would like to think that, next season, we could exceed even the standards we have set this year. In next year's Champions League, there will not be many teams better than Barcelona and whoever is in charge at this club will have a good chance of doing very well in that competition. I would like to think it will be me."

He even allowed himself a wry smile when he looked around the room and picked out a group of journalists from his home country. "I am glad to be supported by the English press," he said. It has taken him some time, but, gradually, Bobby Robson is winning everybody over. Núñez is last in the line.

SPORTS LETTERS

Liverpool challenge lacking

From Mr Charles Speed

Sir, It is grossly unfair of Oliver Holt (May 13) to single out David James as a culprit in the disintegration of Liverpool's "flawed challenge" for the championship.

Serious flaws have been evident in Liverpool's performance for at least two seasons and there was no way that, without greater motivation, they could win anything. This subject was raised earlier in the season, when Roy Evans's management style was questioned.

Only once this season have we seen any sign of a deter-

mination to win, and that was against Paris St Germain at home after a dire display in Paris, when it was too late.

Manchester United won the championship because they are a driving force for 90 minutes of every game. Much as I admire Evans's desire to produce attractive football, I hope he can induce the necessary motivation and prove after all that nice guys can become successful managers.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES SPEED,
Four Winds,
38 Washington Road,
Heighington, Lincolnshire.

Dancing blues

From Ms Freya Inledon

Sir, If Oxford Blues are to continue to represent outstanding sporting achievement, then the way that they are awarded must be closely monitored.

As a former member and secretary of the Oxford University Women's Blues Committee I was (and I am still) concerned that the members appear to have scant regard for the long tradition and high standards that Blues have always held.

Simply because ballroom dancers report, May 10 invest money in their so-called sport and the attendance on club nights is large, I do not believe that they are justified in receiving the status of full Blue.

The Varsity match takes the form of a ball and this does not seem to me to reach the level of international sporting achievement that is usually one of the requirements for a full Blue.

Yours sincerely,
FREYA INLEDON,
123 Northwold Road, ES.

General warning

From Mr M. B. Baldwin

Sir, Following the Pilkington Cup final between Leicester and Sale last Saturday, we are again hearing calls for something to be done about teams persistently stifling their opponents' possession through offside at rucks or the killing of the ball on the ground.

The solution is simple – application of law 26(2)(c). It is illegal for any player... to infringe repeatedly any Law of the Game.

The notes to this law state that, if the referee considers that a series of the same offence by different players of a team amounts to repeated infringements, then he should give a general warning to that team and, if the offence is repeated, he must order the offending player off the field. Furthermore, three offences are sufficient to attract a caution at senior level.

Yours faithfully,
MAC BALDWIN,
President, Highlands Rugby Union Referees Society,
The Cottage,
4 Ness Side, Inverness.

Youngest entrant

From Mr D. L. Bird

Sir, Both the table tennis player Katy Parker (report, April 22) and the dinghy sailor Mark Richmond (Sports Letters, May 2) are remarkable performers to have competed in world championships at the age of 12.

Yours sincerely,
DENNIS L. BIRD,
37 The Avenue,
Shoreham-by-Sea,
West Sussex.

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Meas Pierson

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National Final shown on

sky sports

GOLF: MONTGOMERIE OFF THE PACE AFTER LEVEL-PAR FIRST ROUND

Chapman determined to end run of near misses

By JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

AFTER the talk has turned to those golfers who snatch a victory just when it seems they are about to lose, it does not take long for it to turn to those players who lose even when they are on the point of winning. Pre-eminent among those in the latter group is Roger Chapman, one of the finest men on the European tour, who has amassed 11 second-place finishes in tournaments around the world in his 16-year career as a professional.

The talk turned to Chapman and his record again on the first day of the Alamo English Open, at Hanbury Manor, Chapman's 66, six under par, compiled when the sun shone and before the rain came, gave him the outright lead. One stroke behind him is Thomas Geoghegan.

As titles go, being the best-known runner-up on the European tour does not go far. It is an albatross around Chapman's neck, and he has been lumbered with it for some time. He has been close to winning several times in Europe, his only victory as a professional came in the 1988 Zimbabwe Open at the then-named Chapman Golf Club in Harare — and the longer he fails to do so, the harder becomes the acceptance of it.

In 1985, he started with a 61 in the Swiss Masters and thought a 69 in the fourth round would have been good enough. He took a 73 and Craig Stadler won. In 1991, he lost the English Open by two strokes when he finished with two bogeys.

Something had to be done. Several of his team-mates from the 1981 Walker Cup team had turned professional and won tournaments — Paul Way and Roman Rafferty among them. Why could he not do the same? For a while he went to see Alma Thomas, a sports psychologist in Bedford, who also worked with the England rugby team.

Now he is working with Chris Linstead, who is trying to teach him controlled aggression and now, Chapman

says, he feels better able to cope when the pressure is on. "Going down the stretch before it has been let's get this over with," Chapman said. "I feel more comfortable now."

The real test will come later in the week. A 66 in the opening round when the weather is good, there are not half a dozen players in close pursuit and the television cameras and spectators are not concentrating on you, is one thing, a 68 in the fourth round quite another.

Chapman has been seeing Linstead for just over one year. "I am conducting myself better on a golf course," he said. "If I made a couple of bogeys I'd have two or three more before I got back on track. Last week I had a 79 in the first round. Two years ago I would

have withdrawn but in the second round I had a 66. It was a matter of pride."



Chapman: mind game

ROUND SCORES

Geoghegan and Ireland unless stated
Rt: R Chapman, 67; T Geoghegan (66); C Swenson (66); P Lavery, G Emmerson, D Skelton (66); M A Andrews (66); M Hallberg (66); S Davis, 68; S Satterthwaite, 71; J M O'Connell (66); J Miller, R Clayton (70); D Howard, R Drummond, D Gifford (66); P Payne, S Linn, M McIlroy (66); P J Johnson (66); R Rothery, J Spence, P Haggard (66); A Fordham (66); 71: J Rank (66); M Furry (66); P Baker, R Russell, D Higgins, C Wells, P Wallon, T Blom (66); W Hoggins (66); K Turner (66); P Galt (66); C O'Connor, J S McAllister, S Cope, T M McIlroy, A Gibson, M Ross, P Eales, D Lee, J Ford (66); J Townsend (66); R Murtz (66); D Topping, L Westwood, R Davis (66); R Bost, J Townsend (66); A Alcock, F Vella (66); R Murtz, D Clarke, C Montgomery, P Michael (72); P Way, M Haggard (66); P Haggard (66); J Jones, G Evans, S Torrance, E Romero (66); J Johnson (66); A Coles, D Smith, J Haggard (66); M Turner, M McIlroy

Europeans battle with distractions

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

NEWS of ructions on the home front added a frisson to the preparations of the 19 Europeans competing in the first round of the \$1.2 million McDonald's LPGA Championship at the DuPont country club here yesterday.

Alison Nicholas, a member of the board of the American Express European tour, scribbled to the last tee after a morning of telephone calls and discussions that left her little time to eat, let alone complete her normal practice routine.

Laura Davies, the defending champion, took the time to call Terry Coates, the executive director, and say "see you in Denmark", hoping that he would stay at least until the Ford-Stimorol Danish Open at the beginning of next month.

It was going to take all the concentration that the European players could muster to ignore the long-distance distractions for long enough to post a decent score, but focus is one of competitive golf's buzz words of the moment and people such as Davies did not get where they are today by not being able to adapt to all sorts of conditions.

The world No 1, who was greeted with heartwarming cheers on a sunny, breezy day, was one under par after five holes. Nicholas, more frazzled, was one over after three.

Kim Saki, a Californian of Japanese origin, who lacks consistency — four missed cuts so far this season but tied for eighth place at the Sara Lee

Lingering whiff of battle hits scores

BY MEL WEBB

THE air remained thick with acrimony at the American Express Tour Players' Classic at The Tethering Club yesterday, the hangover from a stormy annual meeting of the Women Professional Golfers' European Tour still present two days after it had taken place. There was a tournament to be played, but if most of the scores were any sort of an indicator, the last thing on the minds of most of the field was playing golf.

The meeting brought vehement criticism from players that promises that the tour would attract £4.5 million in prize-money from 21 tournaments this year had not been kept. There are 18 events, plus two with restricted fields, on this season's schedule with prize-money hovering on the £2.5 million mark.

An increasingly unpleasant atmosphere, during which insults from several players were hurled at the top table, brought the immediate resignation of Gill Wilson, the deputy chief executive. Terry Coates, the chairman and chief executive since 1993, is expected to follow suit at a board meeting to be held shortly. The players had the volatile Swede, less successful. She slumped to a 77, six over par.

EARLY SCORES (US unless stated): 66: K Saki, S Murch, 68: M Edgley, P Hurst, 70: K McIlroy, D O'Connor, A Farney, A J Pate, P Bradley, 71: C Matthews (GB), K Webb (Aus), J Lubbuck (Fon), K Marshall (GB), 72: C H Kesh (Swe), A Farney, S Gregory, M Lunn (Aus), S Strachan (GB), M Renshaw, C Johnson-Fortis, L Lindsey, 73: J Wyatt (Can), J Coles (Aus), M McGeoghegan, M Morris, D Andrews, J Geoghegan, Other European scores: 74: C Somersdon (Swe), 77: H Alfordson (Swe).

Sanchez is lined up for Eastbourne

ARANTXA SANCHEZ-VICARIO and Jana Novotna, head of the Direct Line international women's tennis championship at Eastbourne, from June 17 to 21. Steffi Graf, the Wimbledon champion, may play if she suffers no further injury problems.

Ice hockey: Cardiff Devils have been expelled from the European Cup for failing to sign a contract to play home games at the Nynex Arena, Manchester, in time. The National Ice Rink in Cardiff was deemed too small.

Motor racing: The final Formula One race of the season, the Portuguese Grand Prix at Estoril, is to be put back two weeks to November 9 because of work on the track, a Portuguese Government minister said yesterday.

Bowls: Brenda Atherton and Jayne Roylance have been left out of the England team to take part in the home international series in Ayr next month.

Cotton wants nerves of steel

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ONLY by immersing themselves in the unique culture of South African rugby will the British Isles team benefit in the broadest sense from their 13-match tour of the republic, which begins when they leave Heathrow tomorrow. That is the belief of Ian McGeechan, now preparing for his fifth Lions tour and third as coach.

"We are not going just to play rugby in South Africa, we will become part of South Africa," McGeechan said as the tour party gathered for its first open day in Weybridge. A media scrum hung upon his words and the Lions will find that, at its height, their tour will attract a following of nearly 200 media representatives.

They have produced very good games of rugby, partly through their refereeing and partly through their attitude, and we have to be part of that. The more we involve ourselves, the more we should benefit from the way things are done... and appreciate the game that is evolving in South Africa," McGeechan's message may have been directed as much at his 35 players as his media audience.

inviting them to express a curiosity in their new surroundings.

The Lions management will discuss refereeing interpretations early next week with Freek Burger, the South African Rugby Football Union referees development officer. Their three international will be handled by officials from France, Australia and New Zealand and the Lions are keen for such neutrals to be involved in some of the leading provincial games — that is a matter for negotiation.

The frustrations arising from different interpretation — and the Lions will have to adapt to new law changes — can lead to outbreaks of violence in an already physical game and Fran Cotton, the Lions manager, will lay down a code of conduct for his players. "It's a tough place to play rugby," Cotton said, "and we will only consider players who will not take one step back from that challenge."

McGeechan said: "If we play the way we want to play, we won't have time for anything else," referring to the continuity and acute decision-making in broken play which will be needed if the Lions are to represent the interests of the northern hemisphere successfully.

Martin Johnson, the Lions captain, who last night received the Rugby Football Union's player of the season award, sees the tour in a more limited dimension: "We have tough games," he said. "We want to win them, we want to be a successful team and, if that redresses the balance between northern and southern hemispheres, so be it."

RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION AWARDS: Player of the season: Martin Johnson. Young player of the season: Phil Greening. Best England debut: Richard Hill (Ulster 20-0 vs Scotland).



Johnson honoured



Michael Whitaker on Virtual Village Magic Carpet, which he retired at fence 12 at Royal Windsor yesterday

Britain's best delight selectors

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

THERE was no disguising the relief of the British show-jumping selectors at the Royal Windsor Horse Show yesterday when three team regulars, led by Michael Whitaker on Virtual Village Absalom, filled the top three places at the inaugural Hildon International Team Trial, an event designed to open up the selection process for the British team.

Whitaker, who first rode the Dutch-bred gelding, owned by Susie Cruyff, daughter of Johan Cruyff, the former Holland international footballer, two months ago, was the only rider to achieve three clear rounds.

Geoff Billington, a member of the Olympic team in Atlanta with Whitaker, took second place on Virtual Village Solitaire. Robert Smith, the reserve for Atlanta, finished third on Orthos with just 0.25 of a time fault over the two rounds. All three riders were on their second-string horses.

"Cream always rises to the top," David Broome, the chairman of the British Show Jumping Association, said. "The others are lucky to see these people ride, but they don't learn from them," — a reference to the overall low standard of the event.

Broome was instrumental in drawing up the rules for the four trials. The three rider-horse combinations with the best results over the four trials — the last is in July — will compete for Britain in the European Showjumping Championships in Germany in August. The selectors will choose the riders for the other two team places.

"We may well end up with exactly the same team we've been having," Broome said, "but at least they'll have earned their places — and any other rider who feels they have an appropriate horse will have had the chance to prove it. The sport definitely needed opening up a bit."

Unfortunately the rules were not specific about the nature of the course for the trial other than it should be

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

In the Refresher last week I showed how a discard of the suit partner had led could give him valuable information as to the distribution of that suit. Sometimes you have the opportunity to show him the location of the high cards in the suit.

Dealer South East-West game

♠ 8 7 3 ♠ A Q 2
♥ A Q 2 ♥ Q J 10 8 4
♦ 9 8 ♦ 9 8
♣ 9 8 ♣ 9 8

W N E
W ♠ 8 ♠ A Q 2
N ♥ A Q 2 ♥ Q J 10 8 4
E ♦ 9 8 ♦ 9 8
S ♣ 9 8 ♣ 9 8

♠ A K 2 ♠ A K 2
♥ A K 2 ♥ A K 2
♦ A 9 8 2 ♦ A 9 8 2
♣ A 4 3 ♣ A 4 3

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

English gold

The England men's and women's teams in the European team championship at Pula, Croatia, have scored together what is perhaps the greatest result by England in any international team tournament. The men's team won the gold medals ahead of Russia and Armenia in silver and the women's team have taken bronze behind Georgia and Romania. Given that both English squads outperformed Russia, this performance probably outweighs the various silver medals England has captured on earlier occasions (behind Russia) in chess Olympiads.

INDIVIDUAL SCORES: Men: Nigel Short 4/7; Michael Adams 5/8; Jon Speelman 4½/8; Matthew Sadler 7/8; Julian Hodgson 2/3. Women: Susan Lalic 4½/8; Harriet Hunt 5/7; Ruth Sheldon 2½/3.

White: Nigel Short (England)
Black: Alexander Chernin (Hungary)

Pula, May 1997

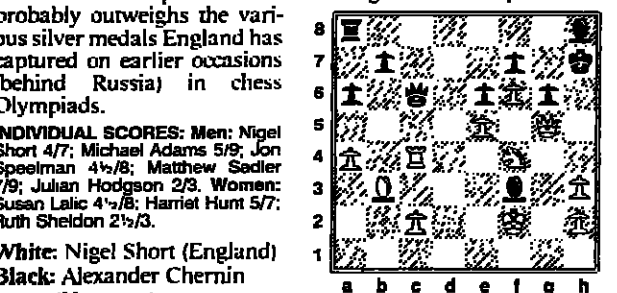


Diagram of final position

Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in The Times, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

South opens One Diamond, North raises to Three Diamonds and South ends the auction with Three No-trumps. East plays the jack of clubs on the opening lead and declarer wins with the king. He crosses to dummy with a heart to take the diamond finesse. This time East has two "idle" fifth cards; which should he discard?

The answer is neither of them. He should discard the queen of clubs. In a previous Refresher I have mentioned the Rule of Eleven. West led the five of clubs: five from eleven leaves six, which is the number of cards higher than the five held by the other three hands. North had two (the nine and the eight), East had three (the queen, jack and seven) and declarer has produced one (the king). That accounts for all six, so declarer doesn't have a club left that is

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

VOLVOX
a. A Swedish hooter
b. A willing voice
c. A spherical bug

ZITELLA
a. A fox
b. A priest
c. A girl's belt

VIOLAN
a. A toy viola
b. The white violet
c. Blue silicate

WHOPSTRAW
a. A canvasser
b. Macaroni cheese
c. A bumpkin

Answers on page 50

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Blajer - Mikulka, correspondence game 1930. Black has sacrificed a pawn to disturb the white king and now powers through with a fine tactical finish. Can you see how he continued?

Solution on page 50

CRICKET

Edgbaston pitch under scrutiny as wickets fall

BY RICHARD HOBSON

EDGBASTON (second day of four): Warwickshire, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, require 172 runs to beat Yorkshire

WARWICKSHIRE must compile the highest total of the game to achieve victory today. Despite the events of the first two days, that should not be beyond them, particularly if they aspire to the championship title.

Given the recent reputation of pitches at Edgbaston, it is not surprising that the regular fall of wickets in this match has prompted comment over the quality of the pitch in use. Sixteen players lost their way in the first two sessions yesterday, following the downfall of 14 on Wednesday, so tongues were bound to wag in the tea interval.

From official quarters, however, came nothing of any controversy. The surface is unlikely to be marked highly but nor will it be reported as dangerous by Barrie Meyer and John Harris, the umpires. Mike Smith, the Warwickshire chairman, said: "Good bowlers have bowled well and we have a very interesting game of cricket."

The pitch has offered a little unevenness in bounce at one end, but any rogue deliveries have shot through low rather than spat up towards the throat. There is lateral movement, too, and both sets of bowlers generally have helped their cause by putting the ball in the right spot. All power to them. In contrast, few batsmen have recognised the importance of patience and prudence.

In each of the past two seasons, Warwickshire pitches have been ranked seven-

teenth in a table compiled from the marks allocated after each game by the umpires. The club is conscious of the need for alterations and it has tried to take some pace from the square. It also has employed Ron Allsopp, although the former Nottinghamshire groundsmen is not exactly a Red Adair figure. In 1981 he achieved fame — notoriety might be a better word — when he prepared the Trent Bridge pitches to suit Clive Rice and Richard Hadlee.

This game, so far, has been far more compelling than



Donald: prowess

would have been the case if batsmen had been able to plunder runs at leisure. It is a true contest between bat and ball.

More than anything it also has demonstrated the extent to which cricket is played in the mind. If a batsman thinks the surface is perilous, he will succumb. Equally, there is nothing like a flurry of wickets to bring out the shark-like trait in any decent bowler. A good night's sleep ought to have removed the demons from within the heads of the

Warwickshire batsmen, who continue in pursuit of 248 this morning.

The most surprising feature of play yesterday, given his superb spell on Wednesday, was that Darren Gough claimed just one wicket when Warwickshire resumed their first innings 169 in arrears. With David Lloyd, the England coach, looking on, he conceded 50 runs in eight overs.

The damage was inflicted by Gavin Hamilton, a strong seam bowler, and Richard Stamp. Between them, they claimed five wickets for two runs in a spell of just 20 balls, including that of Trevor Penny, leg-before going back to a ball that scuttled through low for 67, the highest individual score of the game to date.

Yet Yorkshire failed to capitalise sufficiently on their first-innings lead of 93. Donald removed the off-stump of McGrath, to complete a pair for the youngster, and then forced Vaughan to edge to slip during his new-ball spell.

In contrast to Donald, whose prowess is well known, it is all too easy to underestimate the contribution of Dougie Brown. At medium pace, he wobbles the ball around from a tidy line. Byas made light contact as soon as the bowler was introduced, and Darren Lehmann, having survived several close shaves, inexplicably pulled a long hop straight to Giles at long leg. A better ball accounted for White, another to bag his second duck, and after some tidy hitting, including a six over mid-wicket, Parker fell leg-before, attempting to repeat the stroke against the spin of Giles. The later order offered little resistance.



Brown, the Middlesex wicketkeeper, tidies up as Moffat, at first slip, and Weekes look on at Lord's yesterday. Photograph: Julian Herbert

Kallis stays calm in the line of fire

BY JACK BAILEY

LORD'S (second day of four): Middlesex, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 76 runs ahead of Derbyshire

BEFORE bad light and rain cost the day 53 overs, two things seemed certain. First, that anyone thinking of bringing a picnic lunch to Lord's on Saturday would be better advised to forget it, as play was unlikely to extend that long; second, that the tardy over-rate, with the seam attacks on both sides dominating, would ensure a very late finish indeed to the day's activities.

In the event, the weather solved both problems. It cer-

tainly kept Devon Malcolm at bay which, apart from Jacques Kallis and Mark Ramprakash, more briefly, Middlesex failed singularly to do. Bowling within himself, yet hitting the deck hard, Malcolm also moved the ball off the seam.

He dispatched Weekes, Ramprakash and Gatting, the last two with successive balls — it was the second time in the match he stood on the threshold of a hat-trick — while Middlesex made their way to three figures.

Kallis was responsible for nearly half their runs. He is a well-organised, neat player, with a square over-drive which has class written all over it, and he is composed in

the line of fire. DeFreitas tried needling him, by gesture if not by word, but although the Derbyshire bowler kept at him for ten overs on the trot, Kallis kept cool, treated DeFreitas to more than his fair share of the nine fours he hit during the 67 balls it took him to reach his half-century and remained undefeated to the end.

In the morning, Derbyshire managed to eke out their innings long enough to gain a slender lead of 32 runs after being 23 behind overnight with, nominally, five wickets in hand.

In fact, Kim Barnett was unable to bat and much depended on the overnight batsmen, Dean Jones and

Andrew Harris, although DeFreitas, with six first-class hundreds under his belt and a good record at Lord's behind him, was waiting with his pads on.

In the event, more was promised than delivered. Harris played a few pleasing strokes, but was bowled off the bottom of his bat as he tried to withdraw it. Hewitt was the bowler, as he was when Jones cut a short ball and was brilliantly caught in the gully by Kallis.

Jones had reached a determined half-century in ten minutes over three hours and, apart from a leg-side pick-up which yielded six runs off Fraser, he had clipped six

crisp fours. For a time, it looked as though boundaries were the only currency in which DeFreitas was prepared to deal. Then he aimed one drive too many at Johnson.

Malcolm succumbed without making anything look easy and enabled Johnson to emerge with the best bowling figures in an innings which saw the Middlesex spinners bowl only three overs for their two wickets.

Then it was back to yet more seam when Derbyshire took the field and Malcolm took the short route to impressing the selectors by dismissing one of them, Gatting, for the second time in the match.

Tudor provides express relief for Surrey

BY BARNEY SPENDER

THE OVAL (second day of four): Surrey, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 197 runs behind Gloucestershire

A COUPLE of weeks ago, Surrey were saved from defeat against Somerset by the rain. They may need another dose of divine intervention to escape a hiding at the Oval.

After finally dismissing Gloucestershire for 371 yesterday, Surrey had to wait two hours before the start of their innings, because of bad light, and then had to endure 18 overs in which Lawrence and Smith exploited some poor

batting to remove Darren Bicknell, Mark Butcher and Alec Stewart in quick succession.

This is not the way things should be. Surrey, winners of the Sunday league last year, are supposed to be on the upswing. With their young Turk, Adam Holoake, at the helm, they began the season among the favourites to lift their first championship since 1971 and, while these are early days in the championship, on the evidence of this match, it looks as though their best chance of success lies in the one-day competitions. That does not make Surrey a bad side, just one that may need another year to mature.

Nevertheless, Surrey could relish the performance of Alex Tudor, 19, who, in the absence of the injured Chris Lewis and Ian Salisbury, was always the most likely source of a wicket. Bowling with pace and finding some bounce, he ended with career-best figures of six for 101, although he suffered some punishment towards the end, when Smith and Lawrence enjoyed themselves hugely in adding 39 for the last wicket in the space of six overs.

Tudor looked tired and more than a little dejected at the end and his tall, slightly spindly frame may need more time to develop before he takes on the workload of an international bowler.

Yet the signs are good. David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, was present and was suitably impressed, while Dave Gilbert, the Surrey coach, believes Tudor has the potential to become a fast bowler of express proportions. "In another two or three years, we could have a monster on our hands," he said.

The problem for Gilbert and Surrey is that Tudor — and, for that matter, Ben Hollis — may be called away in August to play for England under-19s against Zimbabwe. A decision is pending from Lord's, but, in the mean time, Surrey are reconsidering their decision not to employ an overseas player this season.

Chaminda Vaas, of Sri Lanka, looks the favourite to join the staff.

In this match, Surrey have been punished by a Gloucestershire side that has found a unity of purpose and great discipline. On the first day, it was the bowlers who stuck determinedly to their job; yesterday, it was the batsmen, who gave them a virtually impenetrable lead of 256.

Hancock made a pleasant 49, but, at the forefront, was Jack Russell, who batted three hours for his 59. It was his third successive championship half-century of the season and, going back to last season, his ninth in his past 11 championship innings.

Croft's slow torture puts Kent in danger of defeat

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

CANTERBURY (second day of four): Glamorgan have a first-innings lead of 125 runs over Kent

THE rain that swept in from the south coast at lunchtime, and kept the players off for the rest of the day, ought not to prevent this match being concluded some time before tomorrow evening. Glamorgan are better placed to win it, after securing a first-innings lead of 125, riches indeed in a low-scoring game.

Teams have recovered from worse positions than the one that Kent find themselves in, but to win, or even to save the game, they will have to bat with more sense than they showed yesterday, when they resumed their innings on 67 for two, and were dismissed 37 overs later for 154.

Robert Croft took the first four wickets, and the one that topped it off. In between Darren Thomas collected three cheap ones.

Croft probably feels ten feet tall at the moment. Since he joined the England team nine months ago, the world has become full of possibilities, and he seems determined to enjoy the ride for as long as it lasts. If proof were needed that figures, by themselves, mean less than people too often think that they do, his story helps to provide it.

On paper a bowling average of 38 does not signify Test

class, but no match was ever won on paper. Croft has always spun the ball, and he has taken to international cricket with real zest, which can be half the battle. If he does not maintain his improvement as a cricketer, and not just as an off spin bowler, it will be a disappointment.

That said, he will bowl with greater skill for less obvious reward than he found here. It was as if he said, "stick 'em up", and the Kent batsmen did. In the first over of the day, ostensibly to "turn round" Steve Watkins, so that Waqar Younis could reclaim the Nactington Road End, he persuaded Alan Wells to offer no stroke to a well-flighted ball of full length and the batsman, a study of self-bafflement, was leg-before.

Waqar did return but, out of curiosity, Matthew Maynard

kept Croft on at the Pavilion End, to see what other gifts he might receive. Two overs later he found out as the left-handed Nigel Long unwisely stretched his front leg with no bat to support it, and was confounded by the ball that Croft was drifting in on the breeze. He was bowling slowly too, which is not such a daft thing to say about a slow bowler. Plenty don't.

Racked by self-doubt, Kent lurched towards disaster. Graham Cowdrey lifted Watkins for six over the short boundary at third man but then popped a tame catch to silly mid-off. Matthew Fleming, driving for runs down the ground, gave Croft a low return catch.

That was 113 for six, and neither Waqar nor Watkins had found success on a pitch that, the previous day, had offered the quicker bowlers pace, bounce and capriciousness.

No sooner had Thomas replaced Watkins than Paul Strang obligingly hung out his bat, like a housewife on washing day, and given an easy catch to gully. Dean Cosker took a second catch there as Mark Ealham cut loosely, and a third wicket was Thomas's when Marsh was leg-before.

Martin McCague smashed Croft for six over cow corner, but the spinner was avenged when another intended hit skied instead to extra cover. Then the rain came.

Career-best Wagh gives Oxford new heart

BY MICHAEL AUSTIN

THE PARKS (second day of three): Worcestershire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 116 runs ahead of Oxford University

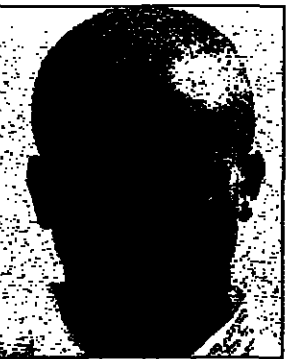
THIS was the sunlit day on a flat, obliging pitch where the Oxford University batsmen were destined to bite back at the jibes that Cambridge are better equipped in most facets for the University match at Lord's, starting on July 2.

Mark Wagh, the "Dark Blues" captain contracted to Warwickshire, made a career-best 64 from 123 balls. Oxford's highest individual score this summer as Worcestershire, lacking three leading

bowlers — Stuart Lampitt, Richard Illingworth and Philip Newport — called upon nine assorted purveyors of seam and spin. They included Philip Weston, whose occasional left-arm swing looked worthy of further exposure, and Paul Thomas, who took three for one in eight balls.

They had toiled until mid-afternoon when Thomas, 26 next month but still making his way in the game, dismissed Wagh and the left-handed Old Etonian pair, James Fulton and Charles Lightfoot. Wagh, who had struck a straight six off left-arm spinner Mark Rawnsley, in the over before his dismissal, chipped a sharply rising ball to short mid-wicket.

Fulton was caught at the wicket off a glove and Lightfoot, playing forward, was leg-before. From 212 for two, Oxford needed the rebuilding



Thomas: broke through

process diligently put together by Peter Morgan, who was dropped by Graeme Hick at second slip off Thomas before he had scored.

Oxford had been dismissed three times for less than 150 in their opening four games, but Roger Hudson and Byron Byrne ensured that there was no repeat performance. Their first-wicket partnership of 87 was also an alliance forged in the Birmingham League.

Hudson having played for Barnet Green and Byrne for Stourbridge.

This was their Oxford debut as an opening pair and, though not a worthy one, though both have been regular team members this season, Hudson scored 62 from 150 balls before perishing

when offering no stroke to a ball cutting back from Gavin Haynes.

When Byrne top-edged an intended hook, Haynes sprinted from long leg to deep backward square and took an admirable, tumbling catch. Oxford declared 78 runs behind and Worcestershire added briskly to their lead, allowing Hick another opportunity for some batting practice.

Hick began this match with only 127 runs from eight innings but scored an unbeaten 164 in the Worcestershire first innings, his 91st first-class hundred — one that opens the way for England selection for the Tetraco Trophy one-day series against Australia.

Crawley back in the old routine

BY DEREK HODGSON

OLD TRAFFORD (second day of four): Lancashire, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are five runs behind Nottinghamshire

THESE may be hazardous times for Lancashire, but John Crawley is in such good form, on the evidence of two innings here, that he seems capable of taking on Australia alone, thus giving England what Raymond Illingworth would probably regard as a balanced side: Crawley, a wicketkeeper and nine bowlers.

His 51 not out, in a first innings total of 125 on a green surface, was memorable for application. His second knock, 61 unbeaten, starting after Jason Gallian had collected a pair, was decorated with eight handsome fours, mostly straight and to the off side. His

cutting was classical, head high, on his toes.

Mike Atherton took heart from his Manchester Grammar junior and, if he was sketchy on one side, he was soon flicking and driving to leg with something like his old panache. The pair have so far added 133 in 48 overs and put the match nicely in the balance for an interesting finish.

Nottinghamshire began with a lead of three on a bright sunny morning, the pitch showing but a shade of green and playing harmlessly. Keen as Lancashire were to bat on it, their first task was to mop up the six remaining wickets, a task that was to take them until mid-afternoon.

Paul Johnson, who can be a dangerous customer in these circumstances, added only another 14, including one of his dramatic pulls through mid-wicket, before having his

middle stump flattened by a yorker.

That left the unflappable Usman Afzal and the tall, all of whom took their cue from the 19-year-old senior man, all of whom had to be chiselled out. Afzal, we discovered, had scored a century for the Nottinghamshire second team on Tuesday.

Wastin Akram, according to the coach, Dav Whatmore, is still feeling his shoulder strain, which partly explains his six wickets and seven no balls, his contribution to the 71 extras in the visitors' total.

He exchanged brief words with the umpire, Vanburn Holder, as his frustration was eased by the occasional bounce. Neither Glen Chapple nor Peter Martin had much luck, Mike Watkinson experimented very briefly with off-breaks and, in the end, it was good old

reliable Ian Austin who hit the target.

He was helped by one brilliantly anticipated leg-side catch by Warren Hegg that removed Wayne Noon, the same combination capturing Mark Bowen in more straightforward fashion. Afzal took almost five hours, with three fours, over his unbeaten 70, a significant contribution to a lead of 138.

Lancashire lost Gallian in the third over. Crawley was middling the ball from the start; Atherton, hesitant at first, eased the rust out of his system in the evening sunshine.

The pair had to face a sharp and accurate spell from 18-year-old Paul Franks, from Mansfield, who could become a real prospect when he fills out: he straightened up the England captain more than

Azharuddin's backers go on hunger strike

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

SUPPORTERS of Mohammad Azharuddin, the former India cricket captain, are staging a hunger strike and calling on their Prime Minister to intervene to get him reinstated to the national squad, the United News of India said yesterday.

The news agency said 30 people in the western city of Aurangabad had written to Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral and to Sachin Tendulkar, the present India captain, demanding that Azharuddin be given back his place.

Azharuddin was dropped for the four-nation Independence Cup one-day tournament now under way and the supporters have threatened to stage a demonstration tomorrow during the match between India and Sri Lanka in Bombay.

Azharuddin was last embroiled in controversy when he married a Hindu actress in November 1996 and received death threats from Muslim fundamentalists angered by his marriage outside his faith.

Azharuddin, a divorcee with two children from his previous marriage, was then given special armed protection usually reserved for VIPs.

Pakistan cricket officials have suspended a two-year ban on Aamir Sohail, but fined him 50,000 rupees (about £780). Sohail had been banned after making unsubstantiated match-fixing accusations against team-mates.

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CRICKET

Rose poses a thorny problem for Sussex

BY SIMON WILDE

TAUNTON (second day of four): Sussex, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 162 runs behind Somerset.

ENGLISH professional cricketers are often accused of lingering on the stage too long, reluctant to give way to younger, fresher faces, but every now and then a seasoned performer demonstrates that he is not only still worth his place, but is improving with the years.

One such man is Graham Rose, who went to the wicket yesterday with Somerset struggling at 67 for six against Sussex and stroked his way to as majestic an innings of 191 as one could hope to see. His team took a first-innings lead of 168 and are well-placed to win, possibly today.

Rose, 33, who is in his thirteenth season of county cricket, performed a similar salvage operation at North-

This was a terrific day's play. Somerset lost five wickets in the first hour in conditions in which they should have done nothing of the sort. Bowler was leg before to the second ball, propping forward to a straight delivery from Robinson. Trescott was similarly careless playing across the line. Burns, Parsons and Turner quickly followed, all falling to Jarvis.

The Sussex new-ball pair put the ball in the right spot, but that was the sum of it. Even so, it could have been worse. Hardin might have been caught off his second ball and Rose edged close to the slips early on. Yet, through forceful play, they carried the attack back to Sussex, whose bowling is not resourceful enough to withstand that kind of thing for long. They are without three good seamers — Drakes, Kirtley and Lewry — here.

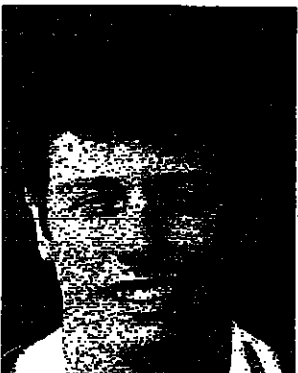
Hardin, who is also getting better with every year that he goes beyond 30, led the way with a series of punched, back-foot drives and pulls, but Rose soon took over and Hardin was content to play second fiddle. They added 83 in 65 minutes before lunch and a further 158 during the afternoon session, in which Rose moved from 52 to 148, his century arriving in a blaze of six fifties in 11 balls.

In all, he struck 28 fours from 251 balls, many forced through the covers off the back foot with rare timing; truly it is possible to say "not a man moved".

Only Jarvis looked like separating them, which he eventually did, but not before Hardin had edged him through slip to give him his second hundred in two championship innings this season. The snick dislocated the finger of Greenfield, who was substituted by Haynes, the Sussex coach. In all cricket this season, Hardin has yet to be out for fewer than 37.

Rose's previous highest score was 138 and he might have got 200 had he not been instructed to get there in time to give his side a few overs before the close: he was run out looking for a second run to third man.

His other regret must be that, as Somerset's beneficiary, the buckets were sent round for him on Wednesday. Yesterday, the crowd would have emptied their pockets for him.

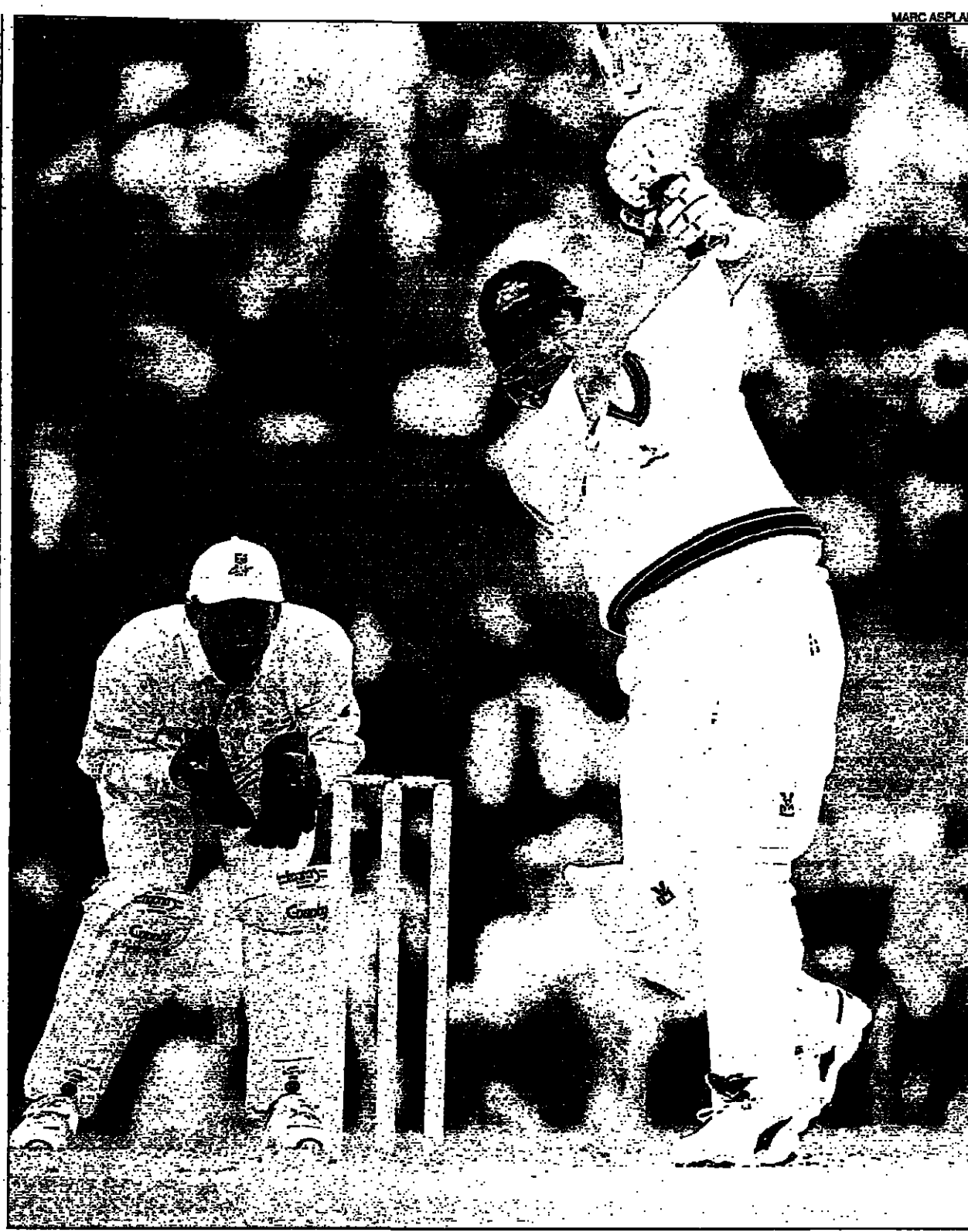


Rose: blooming

ampton last week, when he went in at 73 for seven, and scored an unbeaten 109.

That time, his partnership of 170 with Michael Burns fell two short of the county's eighth-wicket record. Yesterday, he and Richard Hardin, who scored 103, broke the seventh-wicket record with a stand of 279, which beat by one run the partnership of Shane Lee and Robert Turner against Worcestershire last June.

Several years ago, after a string of eye-catching one-day performances, Rose's name was linked with England, but the call never came. In those days, his form ebbed and flowed; now, he is more comfortable with a bat and more reliable as a result. Exactly a year ago, he returned against Nottinghamshire what proved to be season's best figures of 13 for 88: here, clearly, is a Rose that blooms in May.



Mark Waugh strikes a boundary as the Australians beat the Duke of Norfolk's XI at Arundel. Report, page 52

Batting of Millns proves a boon

BY IVO TENNANT

SOUTHAMPTON (second day of four): Leicestershire, with one first-innings wicket in hand, lead Hampshire by 41 runs.

WHETHER giving "all with the new ball, batting as a fast bowler should do or espousing radical political views, David Millns looks the part. His unbeaten century yesterday, the second of his career, enabled the county champions to take a first-innings lead over Hampshire that had looked quite improbable earlier in the day. There was also another promising innings by Aftab Habib, who made 77.

Somehow, Hampshire overlooked Habib. He comes from Reading, which, although across the border into Berkshire, was Gordon

Greenidge's home town. True, Peter May, who was also from those parts, finished up at the Oval, but he went to school in Surrey. Habib did the rounds of county second XIs and even played first-class cricket for Middlesex.

Leicestershire saw potential in his game that others did not, as was the case with others in this side. Jack Birkenhead, their manager, deserves great credit for that. He and James Whitaker expect Habib to improve still further. Yesterday, his partnership of 96 in 27 overs with Millns, who struck the ball with less finesse but with greater vigour, enabled Leicestershire to make something of an innings that, at 157 for seven, hardly suggested riches.

As on the first day, there was plenty of help for the

spinners. One batsman, Johnson, looked to hit them out of the attack, as Millns did to such effect later. Others, such as Pierson, the night-watchman, opted for obduracy. He did so to the extent that, at one stage in the morning, not a run was taken off Udai and Maru for 37 balls.

Maru, now 34, retains the reflexes that have made him a high-class close fielder. He held a one-handed catch to account for Maddy that any leg slip would have been proud to take. This gave Udai the first of his five wickets, an achievement spoilt only by the unedifying way in which he pointed out the pavilion to Johnson, having had him caught at the wicket.

Johnson struck his 38 runs off 44 balls, twice in succession lofting Maru over the mid-wicket boundary and also pulling Udai onto the pavilion

roof. He looks a thoroughly decent acquisition but then, as Clive Rice liked to say, South Africans who come to play in county cricket always believe in giving of their best. After he went, James removed Smith and Nixon with successive balls, one through a neat leg-side stumping by Aymes, and Leicestershire were struggling.

Where Hampshire erred was in dropping Millns when he had only a single to his name. The chance, to White at short leg off James, was a sharp one. After that, the fast bowler — he is not considered an all-rounder in the proper sense — proved to be a judicious judge of which ball to hit, sometimes in the best agricultural manner. He reached his century, off 171 balls with eight fours and a six, in the penultimate over of the day.

Composed Boon leads by example despite heavy cold

BY PAT GIBSON

CHELMSFORD (second day of four): Durham, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are one run behind Essex.

DAVID BOON was feeling under the weather yesterday and so was everyone else when rain held up play for almost four hours, but nothing could alter the impression that Durham are in better health than they have been in six years of championship cricket.

Boon, their new captain and inspiration, has obviously made all the difference and it was typical of him that he did not let a heavy cold prevent him from leading by example when they set out to prove that these days they are a match for a side as strong as Essex.

Durham were still 115 runs behind with seven wickets in hand when they resumed on a searing patch of uncertain bounce and they had added only eight when Morris was caught low down at second slip by Gooch off Cowan.

Boon, however, showed his team what was required by playing with all the determination and composure that sustained him through 107 Tests for Australia. Speight responded admirably, curbing his natural attacking instincts in a fifth-wicket partnership of 84 in 33 overs.

It has to be said that Essex did not make the most of the conditions. Illot, in particular, struggling to find his line. Boon showed what he thought of the bowling by pulling Illot disdainfully for four and then dancing down the pitch to hit Such over the top, and he could only assume that his cold had got the better of him when he mistimed a pull off Iranil straight to square leg.

Boon had been there nearly three hours for his 45, which included seven fours, and Speight had matched him with 47, containing four fours and a six off Illot when the rain came.

Fifty-seven overs had been lost when the umpires decided that play could restart on a cold, damp evening, but Cowan, in his wisdom, spared Speight and Foster what could have been an uncomfortable little session by bowling a bouncer which persuaded them that the light was too bad to continue.

It may be a sign of Durham's growing strength that Essex yesterday picked up one of their cast-offs. With Robert Rollins, their first-choice wicketkeeper, suffering from a broken finger and playing only in one-day games at the moment, they have signed Wayne Ritzema, 21, a wicketkeeper-batsman from Newcastle, for the rest of the season.

Bailey's fluent innings raises the tempo

BY RUPERT COX

FENNER'S (second day of three): Northamptonshire, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 89 runs behind Cambridge University.

IT IS the counties' wont nowadays to use the University fixtures as opportunities to gauge their early season form, or to blood their young players. At Fenner's yesterday, Northamptonshire pedantically followed this pattern with an all-too-quiet stroll in the park. Only their captain, Rob Bailey, lifted the tedium as the rain clouds closed in, with a fluid 88 not out. His colleagues laboured to the extent that their score of 191 for three was achieved at less than three runs an over.

In mitigation, the students employed a defensive strategy for the most part, often vacating the slips and preferring a bouncer and they had added only eight when Morris was caught low down at second slip by Gooch off Cowan.

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Britannic Assurance county championship

Essex v Durham

CHELMSFORD (second day of four): Durham, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are one run behind Essex.

ESSEX: First Innings 227 (A P Gregory 76, S D Law 63, N Kilesh 4 for 50, S J E Brown 4 for 54).

DURHAM: First Innings 115 (J B Llewellyn 49, G D R Law 19, P D Colver 19, J E Morris 11, N J Speak 11, D C Boon 11, M P Speight 11, M P Foster 11, E Jones 11, S J E Brown 4 for 50, S J E Brown 4 for 54).

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-89, 2-107, 3-107, 4-130, 5-134.

BOWLING: Illot 20-7-45-0, Cowan 27-4-19-53, S. J. E. Brown 17-5-36-1, D. R. Law 13-1-69-1, S. J. E. Brown 13-1-69-1.

Bonus points: Essex 3, Durham 5. Umpires: A G T Whitehead and K E Paterson.

Kent v Glamorgan

CANTERBURY (second day of four): Glamorgan have a first-innings lead of 125 runs over Kent.

GLAMORGAN: First Innings 278 (M J McCaffrey 6 for 70).

KENT: First Innings 115 (D P Fulton 19, G D R Law 19, P D Colver 19, J E Morris 11, N J Speak 11, D C Boon 11, M P Speight 11, M P Foster 11, E Jones 11, S J E Brown 4 for 50, S J E Brown 4 for 54).

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-115, 2-133, 3-144, 4-144, 5-144.

BOWLING: Wagon 10-3-49-1, Wagon 10-3-49-1, Wagon 10-3-49-1, Wagon 10-3-49-1.

Bonus points: Kent 4, Glamorgan 6. Umpires: J C Baker and J F Steele.

Surrey v Gloucestershire

THE OVAL (second day of four): Surrey, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 187 runs behind Gloucestershire.

SURREY: First Innings 115 (S Young 4 for 26).

Warwickshire v Yorkshire

EDGBASTON (second day of four):

Warwickshire, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 172 runs ahead of Yorkshire.

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings 223 (D S Llewellyn 62, M P Vaughan 62, A F Giles 4 for 54, A A Donald 4 for 50).

YORKSHIRE: First Innings 51 (D S Llewellyn 62, M P Vaughan 62, A F Giles 4 for 54, A A Donald 4 for 50).

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10, 2-21, 3-38, 4-47, 5-51, 6-127, 7-157, 8-158, 9-158.

BOWLING: Donnelly 13-3-33-3, Welch 9-1-25-1, Giles 17-4-45-3, Brown 8-2-38-3.

Bonus points: Warwickshire 4, Yorkshire 4. Umpires: J H Harris and B J Meyer.

Leicestershire v Hampshire

SOUTHAMPTON (second day of four): Leicestershire, with one first-innings wicket in hand, are 41 runs ahead of Hampshire.

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings 157 (D S Llewellyn 62, M P Vaughan 62, A F Giles 4 for 54, A A Donald 4 for 50).

HAMPSHIRE: First Innings 116 (D S Llewellyn 62, M P Vaughan 62, A F Giles 4 for 54, A A Donald 4 for 50).

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10, 2-21, 3-38, 4-47, 5-51, 6-127, 7-157, 8-158, 9-158.

BOWLING: Donnelly 13-3-33-3, Welch 9-1-25-1, Giles 17-4-45-3, Brown 8-2-38-3.

Bonus points: Leicestershire 4, Hampshire 4. Umpires: J H Harris and B J Meyer.

Nottinghamshire v Lancashire

OLD TRAFFORD (second day of four): Nottinghamshire, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are five runs behind Lancashire.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First Innings 125 (D S Llewellyn 62, M P Vaughan 62, A F Giles 4 for 54, A A Donald 4 for 50).

INDIA

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Toronto v Detroit

NEW YORK: Toronto 2, Detroit 1. (Toronto: 1-13, 2-13, 3-13, 4-13, 5-13, 6-13, 7-13, 8-13, 9-13, 10-13, 11-13, 12-13, 13-13, 14-13, 15-13, 16-13, 17-13, 18-13, 19-13, 20-13).

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Montreal v San Diego

LOS ANGELES: Montreal 2, San Diego 1. (Montreal: 1-13, 2-13, 3-13, 4-13, 5-13, 6-13, 7-13, 8-13, 9-13, 10-13, 11-13, 12-13, 13-13, 14-13, 15-13, 16-13, 17-13, 18-13, 19-13, 20-13).

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-16, 2-216, 3-216, 4-216, 5-216, 6-216, 7-216, 8-216, 9-216, 10-216, 11-216, 12-216, 13-216, 14-216, 15-216, 16-216, 17-216, 18-216, 19-216, 20-216.

BOWLING: Penn 8-3-58-0, Davis 5-0-54-0, Lansen 8-2-26-1, Harris 7-1-26-0, Patel 7-0-30-0, Asie 7-0-26-1.

Man of the match: S R Tendulkar.

ICE HOCKEY

HELINGHO: World championship. Final: Canada 2, Sweden 1. (Canada won best-of-three series 2-1).

SPEEDWAY

PREMIER LEAGUE: Hull 48, Arena Essex 42, Long Eaton 59, Epsom 44, Belle Vue 45, Poole 47, Weymouth 42.

TENNIS

ROME: Men's tournament. Second round: 1. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 2. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 3. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 4. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 5. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 6. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 7. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 8. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 9. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 10. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 11. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 12. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 13. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 14. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 15. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 16. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 17. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 18. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 19. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 20. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 21. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 22. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 23. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 24. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 25. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 26. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 27. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 28. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 29. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 30. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 31. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 32. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 33. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 34. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 35. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 36. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 37. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 38. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 39. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 40. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 41. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 42. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 43. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 44. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 45. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 46. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 47. Andre Agassi (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 vs. 48. 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هكذا من الاعمال



Supporting cast: There is no shortage of room for this fan, who eats his lunch while watching the Carlsberg Pub Cup final at Wembley

Seeing the point of a pyramid

Most football clichés sound quite good the first time you hear them. "This is our cup final," I remember the Chesterfield crowds declaring on the day of their momentous semi-final at Old Trafford. And I thought, "Yes, I can see that. You mean, this is your big day, don't you? But ah, your surface fatalism cannot disguise the tremendous pluck beneath!"

But, as the weeks have passed, I have somehow lost my admiration for this chestnut. It transpires that all football managers refer to their semi-finals in these terms. Last weekend, Bryan Robson even said "this is our cup final" about Middlesbrough's crucial league match against Leeds United — an absurdly illogical remark, because (as we all know) he's actually got a cup final, and it's tomorrow.

So how refreshing, last Saturday, to see a proper cup final without any of this nonsense attached. At Wembley, it was — The Carlsberg Pub Cup, played between Poulton Victoria and Corby Caledonian.

It was a squally, gritty day; flattened beer cans clattered down the deserted approaches to the stadium, the tiny crowd looked chill, damp and lonely, yet it was a proud occasion for non-league footballers nevertheless.

It was also a cruel disappointment for anyone (like me) expecting beer-bellied, gasping, unit teams called Real Ale Madrid, running about

with borrowed shorts at half-mast.

Because these guys meant business. They were very smart (not to say beautiful) kirk — Poulton in all grass-green. Corby in all grass-yellow. Their supporters turned out in considerable force (about 4,000) and Poulton won 3-1 after a very exciting second half that included an astonishing goal from a free kick by Stuart Jones, a printer by day with a look of David Beckham.

Long-range goals are his speciality, his team-mates say ("he gets nose-bleeds in the six-yard box"). Hence his confidence in piercing the Corby wall. If you are familiar with Stan Mortensen's goal from a free kick in the 1953 Blackpool v Bolton FA Cup Final (you can see it in the BBC1 programme *The Essential Cup Final* tonight) — well, Stuart Jones's goal was just like that.

Is Corby where they make the trouser presses? That's the good thing about football, it encourages geographical speculation. Poulton turns out to be in deepest Merseyside, where the team has won the West Cheshire League this season; thus making their success on Saturday a case of "winning the double".

No irony undercuts this phrase, incidentally, because none is appropriate. At their Victoria Park ground, they have already erected floodlights, and are considering the big leap into non-league (I don't really understand this), which will entail install-

LYNNE TRUSS

Kicking and Screaming

ing turnstiles and paying the players. They could then enter the FA Carlsberg Vase. They might even get a sponsor.

I try not to think too hard about the so-called pyramid of football. The trouble is, it's becoming increasingly clear to me that the broad base of the football pyramid is actually the same size as the ground area of the United Kingdom.

This is a scary thought, obviously. Beneath the four visible divisions, organised football just spreads out far, wide and vigorously over volcanic lava, knocking over tall buildings in its path.

Call me paranoid, but look out, football is seeping under your front door! One day you will come home from work and find a small pet league has been formed in your living room! The football pyramid is

phenomenal, and very squat, and it's hard work climbing it.

For a pub team like Poulton, to dream of playing on the giddy slopes of the Vauxhall Conference is like me dreaming I'm Demi Moore. Yet they have done brilliantly to win "the double". They have beaten a lot of other people on the way. So, well done Poulton, and well done Corby Caledonian.

Identifying the underdog on Saturday was easy because Corby brought an amazing 3,000 fans, including a local reporter who lowered the tone of the press box by yelling "Handball!" and jumping out of his seat.

This is not the sort of behaviour you expect in the press box at Wembley, where the press is inscrutable, incorruptible and engrossed in masticating a big cheese roll supplied by the management. Anyway, with all this Corby support, naturally my sympathies swung to the other side — although Corby's goal-scorer, Joey Martin, was outstanding, and I must admit I have nothing against the trouser-press, per se.

I just hope someone was videotaping the game for the lads to watch at home afterwards. In the first half on Saturday, the chance of a good game seemed to elude both teams altogether, and Poulton's plausible manager, Alf McDonald, had to remind his boys not to waste the occasion.

And so, in the space of ten minutes in the second half, they scored three goals — one

from Dave ("One Chance") Galloway; the second from Stuart ("Mortensen") Jones, and the third from Simon ("No nickname") Lewis. And suddenly it was all over. They walked, grinning, up the famous steps to collect their trophy. Their wives took snaps. And it was magic. Magic.

All of which certainly puts Bryan Robson's problems in perspective. As Hamlet says, how all occasions do inform against you, Bryan. There is this enormous pyramid, you see, and right at the very top there's a team with a 50-50 chance of winning the FA Cup, but they are smarter than their regrettable slide down to — ooh, 21st place, a full inch from the summit of a pyramid the size of a country.

Not that it's not tragic in its way. When Middlesbrough failed to beat Leeds on Sunday, I was grief-stricken. I sat on the floor like Juninho, with my head in my hands, and wrestled with the question "Why?"

I just hope last Sunday wasn't Middlesbrough's cup final, literally, because I'm going to the real one tomorrow, and I'm rather banking on them turning up. Meanwhile, I can remember with a shudder how horribly keen Leeds were to be the agents of Middlesbrough's relegation. Surely they didn't need to try quite so hard?

To an outsider, it looked like stamping on the fingers of someone hanging off a cliff. They didn't think it was their cup final, for heaven's sake?

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Hardy determined to enjoy unexpected Trophy chance

BY WALTER GAMMIE

TED HARDY, the Dagenham and Redbridge manager, can be forgiven for pinching himself when he leads the Isis League team out at Wembley against Woking in the FA Umbro Trophy final on Sunday.

Hardy, 68, had thought that his footballing days were over when the club he had managed three times when it was playing at Dagenham came knocking on his door towards the end of last season. The seven matches left were not enough to save their place in the Vauxhall Conference, but his work in rebuilding the club has been rewarded with the first Trophy final appearance by a side from outside the

Conference since Leek Town lost to Barrow in 1990.

Having also retired from his job at Borough fruit and vegetable market last year, Hardy, as a part-time manager, found himself putting in as many hours as in any season during a 32-year career in which he also managed Enfield three times, Bishop's Cleeve, Leytonstone and Hendon.

Add an FA Cup run earlier in the season and Hardy calculates that his men have played 20 cup matches. "In the last 23 weeks of the season, it was football, football, football and more football," he said. "We had nine matches in the final 13 days. We had to

use a lot of young players in the reserves and they responded magnificently. We climbed to finish fourth in the league."

Hardy's record at Wembley includes taking Bishop's Cleeve to triumph in the last Amateur Cup final, but two defeats with Dagenham. However, Dennis Moore, his assistant, whom Hardy brought back to the club that he served loyally as a player, is captured planting a kiss on the Trophy after Dagenham's win over Mossley in 1980 in a photograph in the bar at Victoria Road.

Having grafted fresh young talent on to a squad founded on the rock-like Glyn Creaser, the player-coach — the only player with Wembley experience, from his days at Wycombe Wanderers — Hardy knows that the advantage lies with a Woking squad that lifted the Trophy in 1994 and 1995. "I'm a great believer in making sure that my players do what they can do and get the most out of the day rather than starting to worry about Woking," he said.

Moore confirmed that Hardy "is not the best loser I've ever seen", but not would victory have him "jumping up and down". "You'd find Ted with his pint of lager shandy — and a grin that would be four-foot wide," he said.

As for retirement, Moore suggested: "Ted's no pipe and slippers man. It's difficult to imagine him without his football." According to Hardy: "It's not age that matters, it's whether you still enjoy it." On that score, there can be no doubt.

WORD-WATCHING

Words from page 45

VOLVOX

(v) A genus of fresh-water organisms having a spherical form and provided with cilia which enable them to roll over in the water; an individual of this genus. A modern coinage from the Latin *volvere* to roll. "It would now seem that the celestial spaces have also their volvoxes and diatoms."

ZITELLA

(f) A girl, young woman or maiden. The Italian word. John Evelyn's *Diary*, 1700: "We saw the Pope and Cardinals ride in pomp to the Minerva, when he gives portions to 500 zittels."

VIOLAN

(f) A dark, violet blue mineral, resembling glaucophane. Named for the viola. "Violan: a silicate of aluminium, calcium, magnesium, and sodium. It occurs massive, and in indistinct, elongated, granular concretions."

WHOPSTRAW

(v) A country bumpkin. Dialect for "to make straw up into bundles". John Clare, *The Village Minstrel*, 1821: "A bumptious serjeant struts before his zecq. And 'clear the road, young whopstraws' will he say."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... Nxc3? 2 fxc3 Qxb4 Qxc3+ wins easily! 2... Qxc4+ 3 Kf2 Be1+ 4 Nxe1 Qxc4 and Black has won the white queen.

TELEVISION CHOICE

The horror holiday show

Weekend Watchdog

BBC1, 7.00pm

The consumer magazine has only been going three weeks but already the flak is flying. The focus of criticism is one of its regular spots, the holiday rescue, in which families are brought home from allegedly dreadful hotels in faraway places to confront the tour operator in the studio. Undoubtedly it makes good television but the programme has been accused of selective evidence, giving insufficient chance of reply and, by inviting a phone poll on whether the holidaymakers should get their money back, turning a serious investigation into a game show. Judge for yourselves as the rescue team springs into action once more. The other items are about the high cost of football tickets and how privatisation has put an end to holiday trips by rail.

Great Railway Journeys

BBC2, 7.10pm

Alenci Sayle is our man on the train in a repeat, though a warning of a programme first seen last autumn. His itinerary takes him from Aleppo in Syria to Jordan and finishes on the Gulf of Aqaba. The surprise, perhaps, is that a Western Jew should declare an affinity for the Arab world, though this does not stop him being rude about the quality of its railways. Lawrence of Arabia, whose contribution to the Middle East railway network was to blow part of it up, provides Sayle with a fertile source of gags, though he can squeeze his brand of droll humour from most things. This even includes the desperate state of Arab-Israeli politics. Only in the magnificent sandstone scenery of Petra are the Jews suspended, to give way, if only temporarily, to unfeigned awe.

Visions of Snowdonia

BBC2, 8.00pm

Sir Anthony Hopkins puts on his best actorly voice to narrate a six-part documentary about the highest peak in England and Wales and the National Park in which it is set. The first programme comes near to being a health warning. Snowdon may look benign but it claims six lives each year and needs to be treated with respect. Which means not trying to shin up it wearing



Sir Stanley Matthews (BBC1, times vary)

plimsolls, and definitely not in the snow. But even a properly-shod climber says he has never been so scared. The mountain railway may seem a safer bet, but even that looks as if it could be blown over in a gust of wind. Perhaps the film is a plot by the National Park people to keep down the visitors, half a million a year and responsible for causing serious erosion. The trouble is, Snowdon is far too grand to ignore.

The Essential FA Cup Final

BBC1, 10.00pm

The BBC's football pundits Gary Lineker and Alan Hansen present a clip-and-interviews history of a fixture that goes back 125 years and is still among the game's biggest occasions. The research has been prodigious. We hear from two eye-witnesses of the first Wembley final, in 1923, when the crowd spilled on to the pitch. From Scotland, George Munich recalls winning penalty for Preston North End in 1938. That was the first final to be televised, though there is archive film going back almost to the beginning of the century. Great matches include Stanley Matthews and Blackpool winning the cup in Coronation year. It is sad that the economics of football mean that clubs such as Preston and Blackpool may not make the final again. But who would have guessed that Wimbledon would win the cup, or that Middlesbrough would get to Wembley at last? Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

The Last Straw

Radio 3, 8.50pm

The worlds of media and entertainment are awash these days with people convinced that all is going to rack and ruin in pursuit of the great god, money. Besides music are the Proms, the alleged "dumbing down" of the BBC, these and countless other shards of evidence are cited as proof that populism has engulfed us. But this short story is a salutary reminder that "twas ever thus. Graeme Fife's entertaining and informative piece of fiction is based on the situation faced by Franz Schubert in 1828. His music was receiving muted interest, especially compared with Vienna's latest theatrical hit — a troupe of dancing camels. Can Schubert's friend, Michael Vogl, persuade the great man to become more, well, populist?

Radio 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whitey 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00 Kevan Greuning 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Pete Tong — Essential Selection 10.00 One in the Jungle 12.00am Radio 1 Rap Show with Tim Westwood 3.00am Charlie Jordan

Radio 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.30 Ken Bruce 11.20 John Peel 1.30pm Debbie Dingle 3.00pm Alan Tait 5.00 John Dunn 7.00 Hubert Gregg 7.30 Friday Night Music Night Live from the Corn Exchange in Newbury 8.15 Last Orders (R) 9.30 Brass Showcase 10.00 Sheridan Morley 12.00am Sue McElroy

Radio 5 Live

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 6.00 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Mark 2.00 Racecast on Five 4.00 Alan Robb 6.00 News 7.00 News Extra 7.20 Friday Sport includes commentary on tonight's Super League clash between St Helens and the London Broncos. Plus a look ahead to tomorrow's FA Cup Final 10.00 Paper Talk with Brian Alexander and Peter Dinklage 11.00 News Extra 12.00 After Hours 2.00am Up All Night

Talk Radio

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Wax 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Cheshire 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 DriveTime, with Peter Dinklage 7.00 Moe Dee's Sportszone 10.00 Mike Allen 1.00am Ian Collins

Radio 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor, includes Brahms (Cello Sonata in F, Op 98 No 2); Poulenc (Gloria); Shostakovich (Prelude and Fugue, Op 87 No 24); Reger (Dixit Dominus); Britten (Serenade); Rachmaninov (Piano Concerto No 4 in G minor) 9.00 Morning Collection, with Penny Gore, includes Dukas (La Péri); Telemann (Concerto in G for Four Violins); Berwald (Symphony No 4 in E flat, Sinfonia Nave) 10.00 Musical Encounters, with Fiona Taitford, includes Berlioz (Sinfonia on Peasant Themes from Transylvania); Saint-Saëns (Morceau de Concert); Haydn (Symphony No 102 in B flat); Franck (Allegretto Quasi Marche); Offertoire in B; Willebrand (Like the Glow of Evening); Stewart Copeland (Gene Pops); Strauss (Piano Concerto No 1); Tiedt (Adagio Concerto for Saxophone)

Radio 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.20 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, includes Thought for the Day 9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs, Sue Lawley talks to the sculptor David Wynne (R) 9.45 The Trials of Gulliver, The first of four programmes about television news presented by the former BBC correspondent Martin Bell. He asks whether it is correct to censor scenes of bloodshed and violence in order not to upset viewers 10.00 News 10.05 A Dance Called America, See Choice 10.10 Women's Hour, with Mairi Nicolson, includes the serial *Close Relations* read by Jan Francis (10/12) 11.30 The Natural History Programme, Presented by Joanna Priestley and Yours, Consumer news and current affairs with Mark Whittaker 12.25pm Food Programme, Presented by Derek Cooper, 12.55pm News 1.00 The World at One 1.40 The Archers (R) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News, Classic Serial: Rogues Herries, In the first half of Hugh Walpole's serial Mistrall years to be free. Dramatised by Eric Pringle, with Gavin Muir, Mark Bonnar and Janet Maw (4/4) (R) 2.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope, Rosalind MacAuley reviews a new staging of the *Marat/Sade* at the Royal National Theatre and investigates portable architecture as an art form 4.45 Short Story: One Green Bottle, The story of a young football star who gets into serious trouble after a pitch. Written and read by Brian Glavinie 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.30 Growing Spaces, Ed Stark looks at the French

A Dance Called America

Radio 4, 10.00pm (FM only)

This new series poses something of a dilemma for the people who complain about there being too many American documentaries on Radio 4. On this occasion critics should get behind the title before picking up their pens for *A Dance Called America* is about Scottish emigration across the Atlantic, which is guaranteed to assuage the concerns of that well known Scot, James Boyle, the Controller of Radio 4. The title comes from some remarks by Dr Johnson, who found the Highlands alive with people longing to emigrate in the 1770s: "We perform with much activity, a dance which... they call America. It seems intended to show how emigration catches, till a whole neighbourhood is set afloat." Peter Bannard

World Service

All times in BST. News on the hour, 6.00am Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.15 World Today 7.30 Pick of the World 8.15 On the Shelf 8.30 Music Review 9.10 Pause for Thought 9.15 Performance 9.30 John Peel 10.05 Business 10.15 Neighbourhood 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Sport 11.30 Assignment 12.30pm Faith 1.05 Business 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Visions of Reality 1.45 Sport 2.00 Newsday 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Multitrack 4.05 Football Extra 4.15 Tuesday 4.30pm News in German 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 Business 5.45 Britain Today 6.15 World Today 6.30 News in German 6.40 Spotlight 6.45 Sport 7.30 Faith 8.01 Outlook 8.20 Pause for Thought 8.30 Multitrack 8.50 Newsday 10.05 Business 10.15 Britain Today 11.45 Sport 12.05am Multitrack 12.30 Multitrack 1.30 From the Archives 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 Sports of London 3.30 People and Politics 4.05 Business 4.15 Sport 4.30 Weekend 4.45 On the Shelf 5.00 Outlook 5.45 Music Brief

Classic FM

4.00am Mark Gillies 7.00 Mike Reed 9.00 Hall of Fame Hour 10.00 Henry Kelly 1.00pm Concerto 3.00pm Charlie Cook 7.00pm Newsnight 7.30pm Sonoma 8.00pm Singapore Week, Evening Concert: Trad (Song of the Fishermen); Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 3 in C major, Op 37); Tchaikovsky (No 1); Debussy (La Mer) 10.00pm Michael Nappin 2.00am Concerto (R)

Virgin Radio

6.00am Russ 'n' Jon's Breakfast Experience 10.00 Graham Dene 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00pm Nicky Henry 7.00pm (FM) Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Alan Freeman 12.00pm Mark Forest 2.00am Howard Pearce

Radio 5

5.00 Music Machine, Tommy Pearson visits Tyrol to learn about traditional dances 5.15 In Time, Live from the Brighton Festival, Natalie Whelan talks to some of the artists who are performing at the festival 8.00 Brighton Festival, Piers Burton-Pagge introduces a live concert from the Dome celebrating this year's Schubert and Brahms anniversaries. Jean Rigby, mezzo, Leonides Kavakos, violin, Robert Cohen, cello, Brighton Festival Chorus, BBC Philharmonic, under Matthias Bamert. Brahms (Clarke Double Concerto in A minor) 8.50 The Last Straw, See Choice 8.10 Concert, part two. Schubert (Incidental music, Rosamunde) 10.20 Conversation with Charles Rosen, In the last of live conversations, John Hewitt talks to the pianist about why the romantic composer is interested in landscape, madness and memory revolutionised the sound of music 10.40 Hear and Now, Andrew Sparrow introduces a concert given on Tuesday at St John's, Smith Square, London, celebrating Lutoslawski's 21st year on the new music scene. Conductor Odaline de la Martinez, Stefan Wolpe (Pieces for Trumpet and Seven Instruments), Elliott Carter (Triple Duo), Varese (Density 21.5), Bernard Benoit (Scherzando) 12.15pm Everybody but the Crazyhouse, Russell Davies concludes his six-part series and television the career of the saxophonist Sidney Bechet. Bechet spent the last part of his life living peacefully in Paris where he won the acclaim and love of the French public (R) 1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod, includes 1.00 Bach Cantatas from Amsterdam

Radio 6

equivalent of the Chelsea Flower Show and The Times gardener, Stephen Anderson, checks the progress of the restoration of the 19th-century gardens at Wilket Court, near Worcester 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 Pick of the Week, Chris Serle presents his selection of extracts from BBC radio and television 8.05 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby checks the topical debate from Coleraine, Northern Ireland. With John Hume, leader of the SDLP, John Taylor of the UUP and Professor Ben Pinker 8.50 The Front, In the last programme in the series about people and preference, Sara Parker looks at what happens when preference gets de control 9.15 Letter from America, Another slice of life. Stateside served up by Abigail Cooke 9.30 Kaleidoscope Festival, Paul Allen talks to the television dramatist Alan Bleasdale about his new Channel 4 serial *Madness*, a homage to Francis Durtal's original 1980s script 10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig 10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Grass is Singing, by Doris Lessing, Read by Janet Suzman (5/70) (R) 11.00 Week Ending, A cocktail hour at the week's events with Sally Grace and the team 11.25 Fourth Column, A special programme to mark the 150th edition of the show that puts the world to rights. With Simon Hoggart, Alison Slayle, Alistair Beaton and Times columnist John Diamond and Alan Coven 11.45 Today in Parliament 12.00 News 12.30 The Late Book: Behind the Scenes at the Museum, Kate Atkinson's novel, abridged by Catherine Goring, Read by Patricia Hodge (10/10) (R) 12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 Am World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3, FM 92.5-92.4. RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.6. LW 198. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 693, 908. WORLD SERVICE, MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-1.55am). CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.6; MW 1187, 1215. TALK RADIO, MW 1185, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

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Four-part series on lies? You're kidding me

One day the Angus Deayton bubble will burst. But not, I fear, in my lifetime. Until then he will go on collecting no doubt vulgar amounts of money for presenting a surprisingly durable news quiz, the odd year-on-year or 12 and then little off-the-cuff series such as *The Lying Game* (BBC).

It was the sort of programme that made you check the festive holiday hadn't been declared a bank holiday without your watching. Even scarier was the discovery that this ill-considered title was the beginning of a four-part series. I'm holding on to the distant hope that this might be a lie, too.

Don't get me wrong, there were one or two nice moments. I liked the man who bluffed his way on to the *Kluge* programme by pretending to be a reformed loan shark turned born-again Christian. Or rather, I liked the story about the man who bluffed his way... By the time he'd told us how he did it

again by pretending to be a burglar-torturing homeowner, how he had conned Cambridge United football club into believing a wealthy pop star was about to take them over and how he filled the odd spare moment by claiming to win lottery jackpots, I had definitely warmed of him. That, however, set the pattern for the programme, every contribution had been stretched and stretched again to fill the allotted 35 minutes.

Deayton popped up in person for one or two contributions and was conspicuous by his absence from others, among them the one genuinely surreal contribution: the travel agent who pretended to be Stanley Kubrick. He'd got away with it for three years, helped by the fact that nobody - including the doorman at the members-only Crouch Club in London - knew what Kubrick looks like. Let's just hope Tom Cruise is working with the right one.

We ended with a long and tedious story from America, about a smooth-talking, much married gentleman who went by the name of Guile de Montfort but was actually Graham Lever from Dartford. I managed to stifle my excitement, just as I confidently expect to stifle any urge to watch part two.

By contrast, last night's *Dispatches* (Channel 4) was outstanding: energetic, well argued and agenda setting, everything that investigative journalism is supposed to be but rarely is. The fact that the subject was the much-trawled Gulf War syndrome made the achievement of Ed Braman, the producer, and Deborah Davies, the reporter, all the greater.

Aware that the subject has become off-puttingly complex to many, Braman and Davies kept it as simple as they could without damaging the solid-sounding foundations of their case. Allied

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

troops, they reported, had been exposed to chemical weapons in the Gulf - twice. Once when an Iraqi air-blast missile exploded over a camp at al-Jubayl and again when bombing of Iraqi chemical plants released a cloud of low-level chemical fall-out which was then blown back over Allied positions. It was the quality of the evidence assembled that was so compelling, some of it anecdotal, some of it

officially confirmed and parts that seemed straight-forward common sense. If 33 chemical detectors of three different types all go off at once, the chances surely are it is because they have been exposed to a chemical agent and not to a sonic boom or fuel vapour, as the Ministry of Defence maintained. "They've been lying through their teeth," said one bitter veteran. Sadly, neither Angus Deayton or Sir Nicholas Soames were around to confirm that.

On the rare occasions that a sweeping statement crept into Davies's script, it was quickly backed up with supporting evidence. So, no sooner had she described the Czech Army as "world experts in chemical warfare" than she was off talking to a toxicologist at the Vyskov Military College. Their detection equipment may look a little old-fashioned, admitted a professor, but it was accurate and more important, its well-trained operators

believed the readings it gave. The British and Americans, however, did not. When a Czech reconnaissance party repeatedly detected low-level amounts of sarin gas in the atmosphere, the reports were dismissed as unreliable.

The only real weakness I could see in this otherwise pretty convincing argument was why - if chemical weapons had been used - were the British and Americans so reluctant to admit it? Would it really be such a blow to deterrence for Saddam Hussein to know that he had exploded one chemical bomb without paying "the terrible price" that President Bush had promised? Would such an admission really tarnish what some Americans see as their greatest military triumph since the Second World War? I don't know - but I do know that I'd begun the film with one set of preconceptions and come out pos-

sibly not knowing the whole truth but certainly knowing that one day I would like to. A first-class bit of documentary-making.

Not quite in the same class, but certainly good enough in its own way, was *3D* (ITV), another of the programmes - as I mentioned earlier in the week - capitalising on the renewed interest in regional news stories. I was interested in the story about overcrowding on Merseyside trains being caused by stock-piling surplus coaches on MoD bases; moved by the terrible brain injuries sustained by Scottish athletes Cameron Sharp, but struck particularly by the fact that all three film-makers (the third item was on the use of psychological profilers to catch burglars in Cleveland) had managed to get more into their allotted seven minutes than Deayton had into more than half an hour. It all goes to show what you can do, when you try, and when you don't.

BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (57061)
- 7.00am Breakfast News (72055)
- 9.00am Breakfast News Extra (1) (3031284)
- 9.25 Style Challenge (6402581)
- 9.45 Kilroy (7837422)
- 10.30 Can't Cook: Won't Cook (38451)
- 11.00 News (1) and Weather (7871974)
- 11.05 The Great Escape (7038974)
- 11.35 Change That (7895608)
- 12.00 News (1) and Weather (8208245)
- 12.05pm Call My Bluff (8948351)
- 12.35 Going for a Song (9387351)
- 1.00 News (1) and Weather (751142)
- 1.30 Regional News (86621264)
- 1.40 The Weather Show (8980351)
- 1.45 Neighbours (1) (4071093)
- 2.10 Quilley (1) (6488055)
- 2.55 Through the Keyhole (8254448)
- 3.20 Skipper on Style Catrina Skipper learns how to recreate the Mediterranean look (8369719)
- 3.30 Mids and Mole (7168585) 3.35 Playdays (8170790) 3.55 Badger and Badger (8528754) 4.10 Ace Ventura: Pet Detective (4055603) 4.35 Clarissa Explains It All (1290719) 5.00 Newsround (1) (4441351) 5.10 Blue Peter (1) (8221777)
- 5.35 Neighbours (1) (1) (958245)
- 6.00 News (1) and Weather (871)
- 6.30 Regional News (351)
- 7.00 Weekend Watchdog The cost-of-tickets for soccer matches: the effects of rail privatisation on train fares (1) (5158)
- 7.30 Top of the Pops (1) (535)
- 8.00 X Cars Camera's follow Manchester Police's Tactical Vehicle Crime Unit, working undercover to catch the city's racers, thieves and other criminals (1) (5808)
- 8.30 A Question of Sport David Coleman with regulars Ally McCoist and John Parrott (1) (413)
- 9.00 News (1) and Weather (8933)
- 9.30 Men Behaving Badly An unexpected and unwelcome visit from his father threatens Gary's attempts to seduce one of Tony's three girlfriends (1) (48239)
- 10.00 The Essential FA Cup Final Gary Lineker and Alan Hansen pay tribute to what has become one of the most popular events in the world's sporting calendar (1) (705239)
- 11.40 The Dirty Dozen: The Fatal Mission (1988) Telly Savalas leads a new group of Second World War misfits as they board the Orient Express to thwart Hitler's plans for a Fourth Reich in the Middle East, but they reckon without a traitor in their midst. Directed by Lee H. Katzin. (887930) WALEX: 11.40 The Gert Escape (887930) 12.10am FILM: The Dirty Dozen (8073630) 1.48 FILM: The Monster Club (810727) 3.15 News
- 1.10am The Monster Club (1990) Vincent Price as a vampire who introduces a trilogy of creepy tales to his horror-victim at a disco frequented by ghouls. With John Carradine, Donald Pleasence, Stuart Whitman and Britt Ekland. Directed by Roy Ward Baker (575582)
- 2.45 Weather (1819587)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes. Numbers which allow you to programme your video recorder with a Video PlusCode. The numbers which allow you to programme your video recorder with a Video PlusCode. The numbers which allow you to programme your video recorder with a Video PlusCode.

BBC2

- 6.00am Open University: Alaska - the Last Frontier? (8307719) 6.25 The Origins of State Social Work (8213326)
- 6.50 Health Visiting, and the Family (8704238) 7.15 News (1) (8789429) 7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (8901581)
- 7.55 50/50 (1) (828239) 8.20 Adventures of the Garden Fairies (3900210) 8.25 Tales of the Tooth Fairies (8287790) 8.35 The Record (3092413) 9.05 The French Experience (3942326) 9.15 The French Election (827603) 9.45 Watch (7039871) 10.00 Telefish (82993)
- 10.30 Watch Out (8692719) 10.45 Pathways of Belief (8690974) 11.00 Look and Read Special (8545429) 11.20 Belief File (827516) 11.40 Mailshow (4221887) 12.00 English File (83603)
- 12.30pm Working Lunch (20245) 1.00 Job Bank (4392682) 1.10 Job Bank (8548332) 1.20 Developing World (70450448) 1.45 Words and Pictures (88535413) 2.00 Adventures of the Garden Fairies (3098318) 2.05 Tales of the Tooth Fairies (3098288) 2.10 A-Z of Food (10554284) 2.25 Racing from Newbury (1972687) 3.55 News (1) (8442719) 4.00 Blockbusters (833869)
- 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (8359055) 4.55 Esther: Why Marry? (1247581) 5.30 Today's the Day (500)
- 6.00 The Simpsons (1) (1) (597531)
- 6.20 Star Trek (1) (1) (622968)
- 7.10 Great Railway Journeys: Aleppo to Aqaba Aleppo Sayle travels along the hazardous Hejaz Line (1) (1) (736822)
- 8.00 Visions of Snowdonia: The Main Attraction Narrated by Sir Anthony Hopkins (948)
- 8.30 Gardeners' World A suburban backyard for a miniature Japanese garden (1) (8065)
- 9.00 The Fast Show Quick-fire sketch show (1) (1) (4535)
- 9.30 Sunnyside Farm: The Madness Things start to look up for Ray when Wendy asks him to provide his own brand of psychotherapy. With Phil Daniels and Beth Goddard (1) (37581)
- 10.00 Have I Got News for You Greg Dyke and Jack Docherty join Angus Deayton, Ian Hislop and Paul Merton (94332)
- 10.30 Newsnight presented by Peter Snow (1) (207887)
- 11.15 Space: Above and Beyond (173210)
- 12.00 This Life (1) (4628945)
- 12.45 An Spirit (1989) with Paul Rhy, Russell Lewis and Brian Gascoigne. A young girl's kind words and escape from the violent stepfather, in running and in the poems and letters, written by an Italian POW in the Second World War, he finds while renovating an old house. Directed by Jonathan Hapley (839368)
- 2.40-2.45 Weather (1818578)



Park warden Sam Roberts (8.00pm)

HTV

- 6.00am GMTV (4684622)
- 9.25 Supermarket Sweep (8410500)
- 9.55 Regional News (3918535)
- 10.00 The Time, the Place (36719)
- 10.30 This Morning (82837808)
- 12.30pm Regional News (820429)
- 12.35 News (1) and Weather (9380448)
- 12.55 Our House (1) (8292238) 1.25 Home and Away (1) (7044624) 1.50 Murder, She Wrote (1) (851723) 2.48 Crimewatch (8537868) 2.50 Garden Calendar (1) (2600177)
- 3.20 News (8363535) 3.25 Regional News and Weather (836280)
- 3.30 Rosie and Jim (8618933) 3.40 Slim Pig (7164500) 3.50 Cartoon Time (7160784) 4.00 The Treacle People (1) (7451142) 4.15 Where's Wally? (1) (4976142) 4.40 Crazy Cottage (1) (9458335)
- 5.10 A Country Practice (7936061)
- 5.40 News (1) and Weather (122351)
- 6.00 Home and Away (1) (793448)
- 6.25 HTV Weather (859428)
- 6.30 The West Tonight (1) (719)
- 7.00 Lucky Numbers presented by Shane Richie (1) (8326)
- 7.30 Coronation Street Kevin resorts to lying, while Vera is thrilled when she gets some good news (603)
- 8.00 The Bill Datta and Boyden uncover a sinister secret in a scrap yard (1) (7134)
- 8.30 See You Friday Greg drives down from Newcastle to pay a surprise night-time visit on Lucy (1) (5881)
- 9.00 The Grand Monica revels in her new lifestyle, while Kate's worries grow. Elsewhere in the hotel, Mr Collins and Mrs Harvey decide to let their hair down a bit. With Jane Danson, Tim Healy and Rebecca Callard (1) (8603)
- 10.00 News at Ten (1) and Weather (98158)
- 10.30 The West Tonight Update (487993)
- 10.40 Sounds of the West Drum 'n' Bass A six-part series exploring the region's young musical talent. Tonight, Rufus and the two man jingle crews, Rufus and Fuli Cygna (888448)
- 11.15 The Tomb of Ligeia (1964) with Vincent Price, Elizabeth Shepherd and John Westbrook. A Victorian widower, is convinced a deceased first wife has possessed his new wife. The last of Roger Corman's Edgar Allan Poe tales (943438)
- 12.40am Bankers (1) (4172340)
- 1.40 Club Night (1) (8070456)
- 2.40 The Beautiful End of This World (1983) Ecological drama with Robert Atton, Claire Oberman and Gutz George. Directed by Rainer Erni (313307)
- 4.25 Sound Bites (8371104) 4.35 Movie Club (1) (7282425) 5.00 Coronation Street (1) (1) (51712) 5.30 News (88388)



Rebecca Callard (8.00pm)

CENTRAL

- As HTV West except:
- 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (8292239)
- 2.50-3.20 Secrets from the Secret Garden (2600177)
- 3.50-4.00 Cartoon Time (7160784)
- 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7936061)
- 6.25-7.00 Central News (21245)
- 10.40 Film: Look Who's Talking (85571622)
- 12.25am Sound Bites (8279475)
- 12.40 In Bed with McElduff (9536949)
- 2.10 Baywatch (8693307)
- 3.00 Cyber Cafe (4203272)
- 3.25 Heller Skelter (1887253)
- 4.15 Central Jolifinder '97 (9891253)
- 5.20 Asian Eye (8937545)
- WESTCOUNTRY
- As HTV West except:
- 12.55pm Home and Away (8292239)
- 1.25 Wish You Were Here? (22101871)
- 1.55 Blue Healers (8738158)
- 2.50-3.20 Gardeners' Diary (2600177)
- 3.50-4.00 Cartoon Time (7160784)
- 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7936061)
- 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (25790)
- 10.30 Westcountry News (478245)
- 10.45 Film: Twilight Zone: The Movie (8918577)
- MERIDIAN
- As HTV West except:
- 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (8292239)
- 1.55 Michael Barry's Undiscovered Cooks (4052687)
- 2.25-3.20 Murder, She Wrote (7158581)
- 3.50-4.00 Disney Cartoon (7160784)
- 5.10 Home and Away (7936061)
- 6.00-7.00 Meridian Tonight (25790)
- 10.30 Meridian News and Weather (478245)
- 10.45 Highlander (785264)
- 11.40 Wiseguy (539852)
- 5.00am Friescreen (51712)
- ANGLIA
- As HTV West except:
- 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (8292239)
- 1.55 Murder, She Wrote (8738158)
- 2.50-3.20 Yan Can Cook: The Best of China (2600177)
- 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7936061)
- 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (231245)
- 10.40 Film: Kluge (55392326)
- S4C
- Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (77871) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (61993) 8.00 Bewitched (87165) 8.30 Nagol (632535) 12.00 Australia Wild (15871) 12.30pm Ricki Lake (42413) 1.00 Slot Machine (37621500) 1.15 Slot Synthesizer Sale (32671005) 1.30 All Baba (86532226) 1.40 The Enemy Below (34253210) 3.20 Moving People (897) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (332) 4.30 Health Alert (516) 5.00 S Pump (2332) 5.20 Countdown (968) 5.40 Newsnight (857177) 6.05 News (883326) 6.35 Slot a Sian (867179) 7.00 Pobl y Cwm (989897) 7.25 Cefn Gwlad (263784) 8.00 Oion Ddoe (8516) 8.30 Newyddion (5121) 9.00 To the Ends of the Earth: Interview with a Zombie (6245) 10.00 Brookside (18500) 10.30 Phil (42332) 1.05 The New Eurotrash (847351) 1.135 TFI Friday (843451) 12.35am Robin (9624543) 12.40am The Fly (1958) Classic horror, with David Hedison. An ill-fated scientist undergoes a hideous transformation. Directed by Kurt Neumann (373307)
- 2.25 Return of the Fly (1958) Poor sequel with Brett Halsey and Vincent Price. The scientist's son tries to recreate his father's experiments. Directed by Edward Berends (3098253)
- 3.50 Strays (19546765)
- 4.20 Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (1936.b.w) with Tod Slaughter, Bruce Seton and Eve Lister. Sweeney Todd's macabre story of the homicidal 18th-century barber. Directed by George King (773611)

STATION

- 6.00am Sesame Street (1) (77871) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (61993) 8.00 Bewitched (1) (77185)
- 9.30 Schools: Eureka 9.45 Stop Look Listen 10.00 Fourways Farm 10.10 Scoopscapes 10.25 Technology Prog 10.40 Oil Limits 11.05 The Score 11.20 Stage One 11.35 Schools at Work 11.40 GNOV - Is It For You? (832535)
- 12.00 Garden Party (1) (1) (15871)
- 12.30pm Light Lunch Cockery chat (25429)
- 1.30 The Vixen and the Hare (8632326)
- 1.45 Phone Call from a Stranger (1952) b.w. with Gary Merrill, Shelley Winters and Michael Rennie. An airplane passenger sets out to visit the families of three people who died in a crash. Directed by Jean Negulesco (34253210)
- 3.30 Moving People (1) (1) (697) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (1) (332) 4.30 Countdown (1) (516) 5.00 Ricki Lake (1) (2332) 5.30 Pet Rescue (1) (968)
- 6.00 TFI Friday Music, chat and self-regarding comedy. The guests include the footballer John Barnes (23332)
- 7.00 News and Weather (1) (735806)
- 7.50 Rhyme and Reason (1) (76051)
- 8.00 Garden Party Tom Barber, Carol Klein and Paul Sturges travel to Dorsetshire to offer horticultural advice (1) (8516)
- 8.30 Brookside Mick and Elaine face disaster at the pizza parlour. With Louis Emerick and Beverly Hills (1) (5121)
- 9.00 Caroline in the City Caroline agrees to go out with Del again, on one condition. Last in series (1) (9603)
- 9.30 Spin City: Snowbound Paul insults the mayor on a live radio show (1) (31577)
- 10.00 Frasier: Call Me Irresponsible Frasier stars delving the jilted girlfriend of one of his callers (1) (16500)
- 10.30 Phil Kay Feels... Sporty Bright comedy (1) (68005)
- 11.05 Eurotrash The low-culture, high-offensiveness show, presented by Antoine de Caunes (847351)
- 11.35 TFI Friday (1) (843451)
- 12.35am Robin (9624543)
- 12.40am The Fly (1958) Classic horror, with David Hedison. An ill-fated scientist undergoes a hideous transformation. Directed by Kurt Neumann (373307)
- 2.25 Return of the Fly (1958) Poor sequel with Brett Halsey and Vincent Price. The scientist's son tries to recreate his father's experiments. Directed by Edward Berends (3098253)
- 3.50 Strays (19546765)
- 4.20 Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (1936.b.w) with Tod Slaughter, Bruce Seton and Eve Lister. Sweeney Todd's macabre story of the homicidal 18th-century barber. Directed by George King (773611)



Emerick and Hills (8.30pm)



Walter Matthau stars (1.50am)

- 1.50 Fall-Safe (1964) with Henry Fonda, Dan O'Herlihy and Walter Matthau. Series of the Dr. Strangelove story. Missiles are accidentally fired at Moscow. Directed by Sidney Lumet (8153185)
- 3.45 Burke's Law (3775543)
- 4.30 The Road Country music (87692253)
- 4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (4073369)
- 5.30 100 Per Cent (1) (2314253)

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE

- Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are: picture: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.02 MHz
- 6.00am 5 News Early (8797351) 7.30 Hawaii 5.00 (8479871) 8.00 Adventures of the Bush Patrol (8492993) 8.30 WildWorld (8491264) 9.00 Espresso (2482516) 10.00 Exclusion (7016429) 10.30 Nancy Linn (1) (830650)
- 11.00 Leeza (9075500) 11.50 Double Espresso (3444790) 12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (1) (8399652) 12.30pm Family Affairs (1) (7) (4401871) 1.00 5 News (84989790) 1.05 Sunset Beach (1) (8488413) 2.00 S's Company (790142)
- 3.30 Separate Tables (1983) with Julie Christie, Alan Bates and Claire Bloom. Two short dramas exploring love, marriage and happiness, set in a hotel in Bournemouth in 1954. Directed by John Schlesinger (8602238)
- 5.30 100 Per Cent (8244993)
- 6.00 Whistle (1) (8241806)
- 6.30 Family Affairs Holly threatens Simon with revenge (1) (8232158)
- 7.00 Exclusive Gossip (3160089)
- 7.30 Wildlife SOS Following a fire at a wildlife sanctuary, the staff try to relocate the surviving animals (1) (518142)
- 8.00 Attractions On the eve of the Cup Final, Tim Vincent presents the show from the Royal Bowl at Wembley Stadium where he looks at the football connected places in Chelsea and Middlesbrough. Plus a visit to Longleat safari park in Wiltshire and Castle Drogo in Devon Outings (2811577)
- 8.30 5 News (3366662)
- 9.00 A Murderous Affair (1992) A teacher is accused of murder. Directed by Martin Davidson (87579333)
- 10.40 Exclusive Extra (8416087)
- 11.00 The Jack Docherty Show (5731968)
- 11.40 Club Class Comedy (5215177)
- 12.10am News and Sport (5681017)
- 12.15 Confessions from a Holiday Camp (1977) with Robin Askwith, Anthony Booth and Doris Hare. Bawdy comedy. Directed by Norman Corbin (7972155)
- 1.50 Fall-Safe (1964) with Henry Fonda, Dan O'Herlihy and Walter Matthau. Series of the Dr. Strangelove story. Missiles are accidentally fired at Moscow. Directed by Sidney Lumet (8153185)
- 3.45 Burke's Law (3775543)
- 4.30 The Road Country music (87692253)
- 4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (4073369)
- 5.30 100 Per Cent (1) (2314253)

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

SKY 1

- 6.00am Morning Glory (867589) 8.00 Regs and Kanto Lee (27322) 10.00 Another World (89892) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (83516) 12.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (82784) 1.00pm Central (83532) 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (8142) 3.00 Jerry Jones (72158) 4.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (84552) 5.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (82740) 6.00 Real TV (3551) 6.30 Marmaduke with Children (5013) 7.00 The Simpsons (1412) 7.30 M*A*S*H (8887) 8.00 JAG (12345) 8.30 Walker Texas Ranger (16810) 9.00 High Incident (29888) 11.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (49451) 12.00 America's Funniest Home Videos (7178) 12.30am L.A.P.D. (32038) 1.00 16: The Long Hit (8036765)

SKY 2

- 7.00pm Superboy (8261158) 7.30 Superboy (8261158) 8.00 Pacific Drive (721362) 10.00 Tales from the Crypt (2320555) 10.30 Tales from the Crypt (2314033) 11.00 Late Show (413245) 12.00 16: The Long Hit (8036765)

SKY NEWS

Weekdays news coverage with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

- 6.00am The Pease (1984) (55448) 8.00 Back Home (1980) (75623) 10.00 Mids and Mole (7168585) 10.30 Spanish Football (865321210) 11.00 World Sport (865321210) 12.00 World Sport (865321210) 1.00 World Sport (865321210) 2.00 World Sport (865321210) 3.00 World Sport (865321210) 4.00 World Sport (865321210) 5.00 World Sport (865321210) 6.00 World Sport (865321210) 7.00 World Sport (865321210) 8.00 World Sport (865321210) 9.00 World Sport (865321210) 10.00 World Sport (865321210) 11.00 World Sport (865321210) 12.00 World Sport (865321210)

LE COLONEL CLARKE (1980) (53807)

- 6.00am The Pease (1984) (55448) 8.00 Back Home (1980) (75623) 10.00 Mids and Mole (7168585) 10.30 Spanish Football (865321210) 11.00 World Sport (865321210) 12.00 World Sport (865321210) 1.00 World Sport (865321210) 2.00 World Sport (865321210) 3.00 World Sport (865321210) 4.00 World Sport (865321210) 5.00 World Sport (865321210) 6.00 World Sport (865321210) 7.00 World Sport (865321210) 8.00 World Sport (865321210) 9.00 World Sport (865321210) 10.00 World Sport (865321210) 11.00 World Sport (865321210) 12.00 World Sport (865321210)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

- 6.00am The Pease (1984) (55448) 8.00 Back Home (1980) (75623) 10.00 Mids and Mole (7168585) 10.30 Spanish Football (865321210) 11.00 World Sport (865321210) 12.00 World Sport (865321210) 1.00 World Sport (865321210) 2.00 World Sport (865321210) 3.00 World Sport (865321210) 4.00 World Sport (865321210) 5.00 World Sport (865321210) 6.00 World Sport (865321210) 7.00 World Sport (865321210) 8.00 World Sport (865321210) 9.00 World Sport (865321210) 10.00 World Sport (865321210) 11.00 World Sport (865321210) 12.00 World Sport (865321210)

TNT

- 6.00pm WGN News (3737871) 8.00 News (1989) (3742758) 11.00 Song of the Thin Man (1947) (8383087) 12.30am L.A.P.D. (32038) 1.00 16: The Long Hit (8036765)

SKY SPORTS 1

